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# Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers

## Draft Management Plan Environmental Assessment

May, 1992

U.S. Department of Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Vale District  
Baker Resource Area



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Umatilla National Forest  
Walla Walla Ranger District



State of Oregon  
Oregon State Parks and  
Recreation Department  
Scenic Waterway Program



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As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

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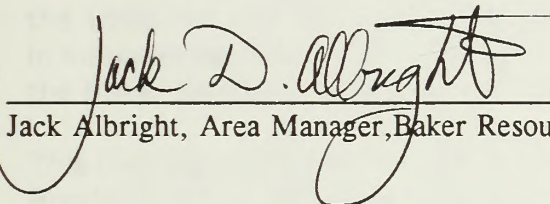
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Finding of No Significant Impact Determination

I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant environmental impacts. I have determined that the proposed action with the mitigation measures described will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an EIS is not required. I have determined that the proposal is in conformance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and Baker Resource Management Plan.

  
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Jack Albright, Area Manager, Baker Resource Area

3-30-92  
Date

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# **Executive Summary**

## **River Management Plan**

### **Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers**

The Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988 directed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to develop a management plan for the designated portion of the Grande Ronde River and at the same time directed the Forest Service (FS) to conduct an eligibility/suitability study on the Wallowa River to determine its status for National designation. These two river segments, including the Washington section of the Grande Ronde, are currently managed as one river corridor under the direction of the Baker Resource Management Plan (BLM) and the Forest Plan of the Umatilla National Forest. A portion of Wallowa Study River and Grande Ronde Wild and Scenic River was also included in the Oregon Scenic Waterways program via 1988 Ballot Measure #7 (Oregon Rivers Initiative). This program, established in 1970 by the State of Oregon, is administered through the State Parks and Recreation Department. In order to assist in the development of this river plan, the BLM and Forest Service solicited the support of three citizens ad hoc planning teams, representing a wide range of interests and backgrounds. One team on the Wallowa segment assisted the Forest Service with the Wallowa River Eligibility/Suitability study as directed by the 1988 Act and two teams, one in Oregon and the other in Washington, assisted the BLM in management plan requirements as directed by the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Baker Resource Management Plan.

This river plan establishes a comprehensive set of actions to provide the Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers a level of resource protection, management, and public use consistent with the Baker Resource Management Plan, the Umatilla Forest Plan, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Oregon State Scenic Waterways Act. This plan covers 90 miles of the Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers between Minam, Oregon and Heller Bar, Washington. The plan contains four major components, the Wallowa River segment from Minam to the confluence with the Grande Ronde River at Rondowa, the Grande Ronde River designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act from Rondowa to the Oregon/Washington stateline, the Grande Ronde River from the Oregon/Washington stateline to the Snake River at Heller Bar, and the Administrative Rules for private land under the Oregon State Scenic Waterways program.

This river plan develops management strategies for public and private land within the above described corridor. These strategies include cooperative developments and jointly funded projects. The plan is primarily focused on activities within the corridor that may affect or be affected by the Baker Resource Management Plan, the Oregon State Scenic Waterways Act, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Asotin County Shoreline program.

Planning issues were identified through sixteen public scoping meetings held in Baker City, (3); Troy, (3); Enterprise, (2); LaGrande, (3); Pendleton (1); Imnaha, (1); Richland, (1); Ukiah, Oregon (1) and Clarkston, Washington (1). Concern for the Wild and Scenic Rivers and State Scenic Waterways designations and how they affect private land, recreation use of the corridor, multiple resource use of the corridor, and management direction were the major topics of public interest.

Alternative management options range from commodity/economic emphasis to naturalness/preservation emphasis. Each of the options are within the parameters of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Oregon Scenic Waterway Act, Asotin County Shoreline program and agency land use plans. Corridor management will integrate the entire system from Minam, Oregon on the Wallowa River to Heller Bar, Washington into one plan.







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## CHAPTER 1 - Introduction

## Background Information

The Wallowa/Grande Ronde Rivers from Minam, Oregon to Heller Bar, Washington include approximately 10 miles of the Wallowa River from Minam, Oregon to Rondowa (confluence of the Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers), and 80 miles of the Grande Ronde from Rondowa to Heller Bar, Washington. Due to topography, access and river character, these river segments are managed as one river, (Map 1).

Through the development of the Baker Resource Management Plan (RMP) 1989, the Wallowa/Grande Ronde Rivers were designated as a Special Recreation Management Area and components of the Grande Ronde Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The RMP directed the Baker Resource Area Recreation Program to develop a management plan for the 90 mile river corridor. In 1968, Congress enacted the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and for the first time, established a system for preserving outstanding free-flowing rivers. The Omnibus Oregon Wild and

Scenic Rivers Act of 1988 amended the 1968 Act and designated the Wallowa River from Minam to Rondowa as a Study River and the Grande Ronde River from Rondowa to Oregon/Washington stateline as a component of the National System, (Table 1). All involved management agencies have agreed to develop one management plan for the 90 mile river corridor with the Bureau of Land Management as the lead planning agency. The plan includes a Study River segment, Designated River segment, and the Washington Segment. A portion of the Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers was also included in the Oregon Scenic Waterways program via 1988 Ballot Measure #7 (Oregon Rivers Initiative). The Oregon State Scenic Waterways Program, established in 1970 by the State of Oregon, is administered through the State Parks and Recreation Department and is a component of this plan through the Departments Administrative Rules process. The result of this planning effort is one management plan for the Wallowa/Grande Ronde Rivers system that provides the user, private landowners, and managing agencies a single source document that establishes management direction.

**Table 1 - Wild and Scenic River Classifications**

The Omnibus Oregon Wild & Scenic Rivers Act of 1988 designated 43.8 miles of the Grande Ronde River from Rondowa to the Oregon/Washington border, in the following classes:

<b>Segment A</b>	Recreational: The 1.5 miles from Rondowa to the Umatilla Forest Boundary.
<b>Segment B</b>	Wild: The 26.4 miles from the Umatilla Forest boundary to Wildcat Creek.
<b>Segment C</b>	Recreational: The 15.9 miles from Wildcat Creek to the Oregon/Washington border.



## **Outstandingly Remarkable Values**

For the purposes of management, the BLM as the lead agency, established a corridor based on resource values not to exceed an average of 320 acres per river mile, established on aliquot parts. The attached map shows private and federal land ownership. The state Scenic Waterway segment which overlaps with the federal Wild and Scenic River designation is from Rondowa to the Oregon/Washington border. The boundaries for the State Scenic Waterway are set at 1/4 mile on each side of the river from mean high water line and is set by legislation.

### **SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION OF VALUES**

#### **SCENIC**

##### Criteria for Outstandingly Remarkable Rating

The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment.

##### Evaluation of the Present Situation

The designated river corridor for the Grande Ronde River contains a diversity of landforms and vegetation that captures the attention of the viewer. Vegetative color, enhanced by climatic change, adds a fresh and distinctive face to the landscape over each of the seasons. The progression from largely

forested vistas to forested stringers separated by native bunchgrass slopes give depth and variety to the landscape. The setting from which the viewer experiences the scenery is perhaps the greatest quality of the river. River users have a primitive experience within a largely untouched scenic viewshed in the upper river reach, while the lower portion flows through open grass covered hills with forested pockets and tributary canyons that are accessed by roads that serve the historical ranch community of Troy and adjacent benchlands above the river canyons.

##### Conclusion

Through agency inventories and land use planning efforts, the river corridor, on federal lands, has been classified to retain the existing character of the landscape. Level of change to the characteristic landscape through management actions must be subordinate to the overall landscape integrity. Management activities may be seen, but not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any change must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the landscape.

The Grande Ronde River offers a diversity of landscapes that contain those visual qualities that result in outstandingly remarkable scenic values. This finding confirms the Congressional Record relating to the scenic values of the Grande Ronde River.

#### **RECREATIONAL**

##### Criteria for Outstandingly Remarkable Rating

Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, unique enough to attract visitors from outside of the geographic region. Visitors would be willing to travel long distance to use the river resources for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities could include, but not be limited to, sightseeing, wildlife observation,



photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating.

Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and attract or have the potential to attract visitors from outside the geographic region.

The river may provide or have the potential to provide settings for national or regional usage or competitive events.

#### Evaluation of the Present Situation

Use surveys conducted in 1984, and over the period of 1987-1991, show that the Grande Ronde River is visited by recreationists of geographically diverse origins. Eighty-four percent of visitors to the river are from outside northeast Oregon. In addition, 22 percent are visitors from outside the tri-state region of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. International visitors have been present each season.

Visitors travel long distances to recreate along the Grande Ronde River because it has the following attributes:

- The river, approximately 2 years in 5, is floatable from ice break-up in the spring until freeze-up in the winter. This is an unusually long float season for a free flowing river.
- The river provides a rare, 2 to 5 day duration, primitive float experience for individuals of beginning and moderate skill levels.
- The recreational experience occurs within a pleasingly diverse landscape. Typical float trips begin in a setting dominated by coniferous forests and end in a semi-arid grassland steppe.

- Existing recreational uses that are exceptional in quality include: anadromous and resident fishing, floating (rafting, canoeing, and kayaking for overnight use), and big game viewing/hunting.

#### Conclusion

The recreational opportunities available on and near the Grande Ronde River are determined to be of outstandingly remarkable value. This finding confirms the Congressional record relating to the recreational value of the Grande Ronde River.

### **GEOLOGIC**

#### Criteria for Outstandingly Remarkable Rating

The river or the areas within the river corridor contains an example(s) of a geologic feature, process, or phenomena that is rare, unusual, one-of-a-kind, or unique to the geographic region. The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a "textbook" example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, and other geologic structures).

#### Evaluation of the Present Situation

The Grande Ronde River flows through a diverse blend of granites, limestone, sedimentary, and volcanic features such as rooster combs, devil's postpiles, caves, talus slopes, rim rocks, and narrow tributary canyons. These geologic features add to the visitor's interest in the area and provide for added diversity in the recreational experience. However, the nearby Snake River in the Hells Canyon National Recreational Area provides a much more spectacular example of these characteristics.

#### Conclusion

The geologic features within the Grande Ronde River are not unique to the region.



Such features are more readily observable in the nearby Hells Canyon National Recreational Area and are of greater diversity and quality. Therefore, the geology of the Grande Ronde River does not meet the criteria for an outstandingly remarkable value, but does meet the criteria as a significant resource value within the geographic region.

## **FISHERIES**

Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations or habitat, or Native American cultural use, or a combination of these river-related conditions. Consideration shall be given for potential as well as existing values.

### Criteria for Outstandingly Remarkable Rating

**Populations:** The river is international, national, or regionally an important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species. Of particular significance is the presence of wild stocks and/or federal or state listed threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.

**Habitat:** The river provides or has the potential to provide exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region. Of particular significance is habitat for wild stocks and/or federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.

### Evaluation of the Present Situation

The Grande Ronde River is a nationally renowned sport fishery which is frequently cited in outdoor publications and

commercial outfitter/guide advertising. The river system is identified and rated by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as a special management area for anadromous fisheries and is one of the top three sport fisheries within the region. The river and its major tributaries provide spawning and rearing habitat for both wild and hatchery stocks of spring chinook, summer steelhead, and rainbow trout. The river fisheries resource is important to the Nez Perce tribe and also to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation as it affects anadromous fisheries in the lower Columbia River.

### Conclusion

The quality and importance of the fisheries habitat and its resulting resident and anadromous species diversity qualifies this resource to be considered an outstandingly remarkable value. This finding confirms the Congressional record relating to fisheries values of the Grande Ronde River.

## **WILDLIFE**

Wildlife values shall be judged on the relative merits of either wildlife populations or habitat, or Native American cultural use, or a combination of these conditions.

### Criteria for Outstandingly Remarkable Rating

**Populations:** The river or area within the river corridor contains nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species. Of particular significance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could in itself lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.

**Habitat:** The river or area within the river corridor provides exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional



significance, or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, and species. Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.

#### Evaluation of the Present Situation

The Grande Ronde River corridor is a highly sensitive wintering area for the bald eagle (a federally listed threatened species in Oregon and Washington) and has the potential for providing nesting habitat based upon historical use. The Grande Ronde is encompassed in an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Special Management Area for bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, and whitetail deer. The river corridor provides critical wintering habitat for these species. There is an exceptional diversity of species affording excellent viewing opportunities for game and nongame species. Major species include waterfowl, herons, shorebirds, raptors, upland birds, perching birds, river otters, mink, black bear, bobcat, turkey, and mountain lion. The wildlife resource within the canyon corridor is an important Nez Perce subsistence hunting treaty area.

#### Conclusion

The quality and importance of the habitat and its resulting wildlife species diversity qualifies this resource to be considered and outstandingly remarkable value. This finding confirms the Congressional Record relating to wildlife values of the Grande Ronde River.

## **PRE-HISTORIC, CULTURAL**

### Criteria for Outstandingly Remarkable Rating

The river or area within the river corridor contains a site(s) where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Site(s) must have unusual characteristics or exceptional human interest value(s). Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare and represent an area where a culture or cultural period was first identified and described; may have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups; or may have been used by cultural groups for rare or sacred purposes. Of particular significance are sites or features listed in, or are eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places.

#### Evaluation of the Present Situation

The river corridor was extensively utilized by Native Americans for over 8,000 years as a hunting, fishing, and gathering area. There are also indications of religious uses of the area associated with Native Americans. No systematic cultural resource inventories have been completed for the river corridor. It is known, however, that all river flats were occupied, at least seasonally, and that pit houses, sweat lodges, and rock shelters are present.

#### Conclusion

Although no cultural resource inventories have been completed for the Grande Ronde River corridor, there are indications the area was extensively utilized. Its significance regionally or nationally is yet to be determined. A cultural inventory to identify sites in the river corridor will be completed with a determination of resource significance. During the interim, known and discovered sites are protected under existing statutes, regulations and policy.



## **HISTORIC, CULTURAL**

### Criteria for Outstandingly Remarkable Rating

The river or area within the river corridor contains a site(s) or feature(s) associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare, unusual or one-of-a-kind in the region. A historic site(s) and/or feature(s) in most cases is 50 years old or older. Of particular significance are sites or features listed in, or are eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places.

### Evaluation of the Present Situation

The Grande Ronde River corridor was a traditional use area of the Nez Perce and Cayuse Tribes during historical times. Detailed inventories and literature searches have not been conducted to determine the extent of associated cultural resources.

From the turn-of-the century to the years of the Great Depression, many homesteads were established on the larger river flats and also on the bench flats above the river. Remains of structures constructed during this period are obvious at several locations in the river corridor.

### Conclusion

Even though it is known that there are historic cultural resources along the Grande Ronde River, there is insufficient information available at this time to make a determination of significance.

## **STATE SCENIC WATERWAY RESOURCE ANALYSIS**

For the purposes of State Scenic Waterway classification and land management rules for the Grande Ronde

River, the above river values that have been found to be Outstandingly Remarkable (Scenic, Recreational, Fisheries, Wildlife, and Cultural) have been found by Oregon State Parks Department to be "Special Attributes".

## **OTHER SIMILAR VALUES**

While no specific evaluation guidelines have been developed for the "other similar values" category, assessments of additional river-related values consistent with the foregoing guidance will be completed - including but not limited to hydrologic, paleontologic, botanic, and ecologic resources. The assessments of any additional river-related values will be completed on a river-by-river basis as appropriate. The relationship of wilderness and/or wilderness study areas to the river and its associated values should be documented as applicable.

## **Related Federal, Tribal, State and Local Planning and Management Responsibilities**

### **Introduction**

Although the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988 assigned a Special river planning and management role to a unique blend of Federal, Tribal, State and local entities and citizen users, it was not the first cooperative planning and resource management effort in the Wallowa/Grande Ronde River area. The same mix of landownership and authorities has been applied to a wide variety of resources and joint programs for many years. County plans have been developed under State guidelines in close consultation and coordination with Federal agencies and the public since the late 1970's. Federal plans, such as the BLM's Vale District Baker Resource Management Plan, have been developed with substantial interagency review. Special emphasis programs, such as



wildfire control, historic preservation, noxious weed control and wildlife habitat enhancement are routinely coordinated among agencies, landowners and other affected publics. It is expected that most of these resource management relationships will remain unchanged as a result of this river management plan.

### **Federal Planning and Management Responsibilities**

In 1989, the Bureau of Land Management completed the Baker Resource Management Plan, which was a comprehensive land use or Resource Management Plan (RMP) for all BLM lands and minerals in Wallowa and Union counties in Oregon and Asotin county in Washington. The total BLM surface acreage, within the Resource Area, at the time of RMP completion was over 425,000 acres, including all BLM lands in the Wallowa/Grande Ronde River Planning Area. BLM manages almost 29 percent of the lands within the river corridor. The Resource Management Plan included an environmental impact statement which documented the environmental consequences of the plan as well as numerous intergovernmental relationships. The plan established land use goals and objectives for Bureau administered lands, minerals, soils and watershed, rangeland, forest and woodlands, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, cultural and archaeological resources. It incorporated management direction for roads and access, utility and transportation corridors, fire control and noxious weed control. Copies of the approved Baker Resource Management Plan are available from the Bureau's Baker Resource Area Office.

In response to the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA), Final Environmental Impact Statements (FEIS's) and Land and Resource Management Plans (Forest Plans) are

being prepared on every national forest to decide how to manage lands and resources to meet future needs. This FEIS for the Forest Plan presents eight alternatives or ways to manage the Forest for different goals and resource mixes for future management of the Umatilla National Forest. These alternatives were developed over the past several years by collecting a variety of information from the Forest, counties, states, neighboring Forests, Tribes and the general public to resolve the issues, concerns, and opportunities identified in the planning process. They display a relatively wide range of management options for the Forest. Using the alternatives as a basis for analysis, the task was to identify the specific "mix" of land allocations and resource uses which best meet the diverse needs of the many publics using the Umatilla National Forest and its resources. A Forest Service preferred alternative that appears to best maximize public net benefits (PNB) while responding to the issues is included. The Forest Plan identifies the amount of land to be managed for different uses and products and explains how the environment will be protected. It shows the amount of different products and services that can be provided. The Forest Plan also describes the management practices to be used in managing each of the Forest resources.

Through agreement between the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman Forest, the Umatilla NF has the management lead for all forest lands on the Grande Ronde River within the corridor.

### **Endangered Species Act**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended). The BLM establishes formal consultation with that agency on appropriate courses of action when it is determined that a threatened or endangered species, or its critical habitat, may be affected by a proposed management action.



Resulting decisions could mean the proposed action is modified or abandoned.

### **Conservation Research Program**

The Soil Conservation Service administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Conservation Reserve Program. This voluntary program pays farmers/ranchers who agree to take highly erodible soils out of cultivation for ten years. The program is limited to no more than 25 percent of the highly erodible soils in each county. Enrolled lands are planted to grasses and not used for grazing or other commercial purposes. It is assumed that the "reserve" lands make a substantial contribution to reduced erosion and commensurate improvement in downstream water quality.

### **Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the BLM coordinate resource management programs through a memorandum of understanding. The memorandum allows regional and district coordination where similar interests exist in water resources and major utility corridors. The BLM, the BPA and the Northwest Power Planning Council (NPPC), through authorization by the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (P.L.96-501), are involved in stabilization and improvement of anadromous fish habitat, including riparian zones, through grants provided by the BPA. The BPA also assists the BLM in identifying and evaluating regional utility corridor options.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) reviews proposals for new power sites, and interstate energy-related pipelines; however, designation of the Grande Ronde as a Federal Wild and Scenic River precludes future dams or

instream diversion structures, on the designated portion, which might be permitted by FERC.

### **Tribal Government**

The Wallowa River, from Minam to Rondowa, and the Grande Ronde River downstream from Rondowa includes land that was ceded to the United States Government by the Nez Perce Tribe, under the provisions of the 1855 Treaty with the Nez Perce. The river planning area does not include any reservation lands. On ceded lands, the Nez Perce reserved certain rights and privileges under the treaty including the right to fish at all usual and accustomed places, to hunt, gather roots and berries, and pasture stock on unclaimed (federal) lands within the ceded area. The Nez Perce continue to use the area for hunting, fishing, and other traditional activities at usual and accustomed places. Members of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla also have related treaty interests, under an 1855 Treaty ceding neighboring lands to the U.S. Government, that include the fisheries habitat of the Grande Ronde River and its tributaries. Umatilla tribal members also continue their traditional uses of usual and accustomed sites for fishing, hunting, and plant gathering within the river corridor.

The American Indian Religious Freedom Act affirms the rights of Indians to believe, express, and exercise their traditional religions; including access to sacred sites, use and possession of sacred objects, and the freedom to worship through ceremonial and traditional rites. In the Wallowa and Grande Ronde River drainages, sites exist which are considered sacred or important to the practice of religion by members of the Nez Perce or the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla.

Both the Nez Perce and the Umatilla tribes are consulted by federal, state, and local governments as required by federal policy and laws. Coordination and consultation



between the tribes and the federal agencies is conducted as a government-to-government relationship. In the early stages of planning projects or activities on federal or state lands, agencies consult with the tribes to identify effects on tribal interests, treaty rights, or traditional use areas and resources within ceded lands.

## **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife**

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Washington Department of Wildlife (WDW), and Washington Department of Fisheries (WDF) are charged with maintaining optimum numbers of indigenous fish and wildlife, and to ensure that no species are threatened with extinction. The Departments are responsible for developing and administering fish and wildlife regulations. The ODFW, WDW, and WDF have undertaken an aggressive program to restore riparian habitat on Department lands and have actively sought and encouraged other agencies and private landowners to follow their lead. Agencies routinely monitor the Wallowa/Grande Ronde River angling effort and harvest, as well as hunter effort and harvest.

The Oregon and Washington Wildlife Departments classified the entire lower Grande Ronde and Wallowa canyons, below Minam, as critical winter range for elk, deer, mountain sheep and bald eagles.

### **Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department**

The Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the acquisition, improvement, maintenance and operation of Oregon's State Park system. The system is directed by the State Parks administrator through a headquarters staff in Salem and five Regional park supervisors stationed throughout the State. In addition to operating State Parks, the division gives technical assistance to local government agencies on park matters, develops and maintains the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and administers the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund matching grant program in Oregon. The division also administers several special programs, including the Oregon Beach Law, State Historic Preservation program, Oregon Recreational Trails System, State Scenic Waterways and Willamette Greenway. The 1988-1993 edition of the SCORP is consistent with Statewide Planning Goals and recognized the 1988 Omnibus Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, BLM planning processes and agency interrelationships. The SCORP shows no designated Federal or State "National Recreational Trails", "Bicycle Route Systems" or components of the "Historic and Scenic Highways" program within the river planning area.

### **Oregon State Scenic Waterways**

The Oregon Scenic Waterways Program is administered under the authority of the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission (ORS 390.805 to ORS 390-925). Administrative rules (OAR 736-40-005 to 736-40-095) have been adopted to govern the program. In addition to the general rules governing the program, specific rules are generated for management of each river segment in the system. These rules are created through the management planning process, and tailored to the actions



necessary to maintain the existing character of the designated river corridor.

The Act and the Commission's rules require the evaluation of proposed land use changes within one-quarter mile from each side of the river for their potential impacts on aesthetic and scenic values, as viewed from the river. Property owners wanting to build roads or houses, develop mines, harvest timber, or other similar projects, must provide written notification to the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department. Parks evaluation of the project will be coordinated with other natural resource agencies (federal and state) having regulatory responsibility and with the local jurisdiction. Parks relies on its river classification and administrative rules for each segment of the scenic waterway to determine whether the proposed project is incompatible or inconsistent with the designated classification. State Parks will work with the landowner to reach a mutually satisfactory resolution of any conflicts. Where such a resolution cannot be reached, the Commission must decide, within one year of the original notification, whether to pay the property owner for the land or the development rights, or allow the landowner to proceed in accordance with the original written notification.

Other local and state agencies must comply with the scenic waterway law and rules. Parks also works closely with federal agencies to assure their actions are compatible with scenic waterway law, rule, and resource management recommendations.

### **Oregon State Marine Board**

The Oregon State Marine Board was established in 1959. The Board promotes safe recreational boating and regulates the use of watercraft on waterways throughout the state. All

motorized watercraft and sailboats over 12' in length are required to be titled and registered with the Marine Board. Fishing and hunting guides and outfitters who operate in Oregon are also required to register with the Board.

The Board has the authority to adopt rules governing the operation of recreational watercraft including the ability to "make special regulations relating to the operation of boats, including the establishment of designated speeds and prohibition of the use of motorboats for the protection of game and game fish at the request of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, or the carrying out of the provisions of the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Public Law 90-542, and the Oregon Scenic Waterways Act, ORS 390.805 to 390.925."

State boating laws and operating rules are enforced by county sheriffs and the State Police. The Marine Board contracts for local enforcement services and provides the necessary funding for staff, equipment, and training for marine programs in 33 counties. In addition to law enforcement, marine patrols conduct safety inspections, place and maintain uniform waterway markers and navigational aids, and provide search & rescue services.

Grants for the development and maintenance of boating related facilities are also available to state agencies, cities, counties, port authorities, and park and recreation districts from state funds appropriated to the Board. The Board also develops and distributes boating education and safety materials including printed literature, school programs, and informational kiosks at boating access sites. Funds for the Board's programs and services come from fees paid by boaters, fuel taxes, and federal grants.

### **Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation**

The Oregon and Washington Advisory Committees on Historic Preservation consists of nine members recognized professionally in



the fields of history, architectural history, architecture, archaeology and/or other disciplines. One member represents the public at large and one represents Native Americans. The members are appointed by the Governor.

The Committees are charged with reviewing nominations to the National Register of Historic Places within the States of Oregon and Washington and recommending approved nominations to the State Historic Preservation offices pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The committees also review Statewide Plans for Historic Preservation.

### **Oregon State Police**

The Department of State Police was created to serve as a rural patrol and to assist local law enforcement agencies. This agency is empowered to enforce all Oregon statutes without limitation by county or other political subdivision. The Department totals 894 members strategically located at 46 stations/posts throughout the State.

The Department enforces State laws and rules. These include the river management and use rules adopted and implemented by the State Marine Board, State Parks and Recreation Department and Fish and Wildlife Department. State Police activities are coordinated with local and Federal law enforcement agencies and assisted by the general public. For example, the TIP Program (Turn in Poachers) has been established in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Hunters' Association. This program is designed to involve citizens in reporting wildlife law violations. Responses from citizens throughout the State have resulted in many poaching arrests and convictions.

### **Oregon Department of Forestry**

The Department of Forestry, authorized by ORS 526.008 and established in 1911, is under the direction of the state forester, who is appointed by the Board of Forestry. The statutes direct the Forester to act on all matters pertaining to forestry in the protection of forest lands and the conservation of forest resources.

These activities involve all phases of forestry, including responsibility for the protection from fire on private, state and federal forests; the detection and control of harmful forest insect pests and forest tree diseases on state and private lands; the rehabilitation and management of state-owned forest lands; and operation of a tree forest nursery. The department also administers the Oregon Forest Practices Act, Log Patrol and Log Brand Acts, Small Tract Optional Tax Law, forest land classification, forestry assistance to Oregon's 25,000 nonindustrial private woodland owners, and forest resource planning.

### **Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Washington Department of Ecology**

Under a memorandum of understanding, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) and Federal agencies work together to meet implementation requirements of the Clean Water Act (P.L.92-500), as amended. The Federal Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958 requires wildlife conservation be given equal consideration and be coordinated with other features of water developments.

### **Oregon and Washington State Departments of Agriculture**

The State Departments of Agriculture cooperate with local soil and water conservation districts to establish mutual goals in coordinating range and watershed management practices and to gather and share natural resources information that has



proven beneficial for use on public and private lands. Cooperation with appropriate weed control districts also occurs as needed to deal with infestations of noxious weeds.

### **Oregon Water Resources Department**

Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) is responsible for management and allocation of the state's water resources. The Water Resources Commission typically develops policy through the preparation of basin plans for each of Oregon's 18 river basins. Through Basin plans, the OWRD classifies stream flow for certain purposes, such as domestic use, industry, municipal, recreation or irrigation. The plans are adopted as administrative rules which reflect how water is currently used, and its future use and allocation.

Minimum perennial stream flows are administrative designations established by the Water Resources Commission. A law passed in 1987 by the Legislature allows for the conversion of minimum instream water rights. Three departments may apply for these instream rights: Parks and Recreation, Fish and Wildlife, and Environmental Quality. Once granted, the instream water right is held by OWRD in trust for the people of Oregon.

A 1988 Oregon Supreme Court decision (Diack vs. City of Portland) found that the water Resources Commission must make findings on the effects of new consumptive water uses on state waterways. Because of this court ruling, OWRD is working closely with State Parks and other agencies to quantify stream flow needs for waterways.

### **Oregon State Land Board**

The Division of State Lands (DSL) is the administrative arm of the State Land Board (composed of the Governor, Secretary of State, and State Treasurer). Under constitutional and statutory guidelines, the Board is responsible for managing the assets of the Common School Fund as well as for administering the Oregon Removal-Fill Law. These assets include the beds and banks of Oregon's navigable waterways and are to be managed for the "greatest benefit for the people of this State, consistent with the conservation of this resource under sound techniques of land management."

"DSL also administers the State's removal-fill law, which protects Oregon's waterways from uncontrolled alteration. The permit review process involves coordination with the natural-resource and land-use agencies from the local through the federal levels. Within Oregon Scenic Waterways, special authorization is needed from the Board and DSL for "any alteration of the beds and banks" of the Willamette/Grande Ronde Rivers (ORS 390.835)."

### **Wallowa, Union, and Asotin County Sheriff Departments**

All three county sheriff departments are empowered to enforce all Oregon and Washington State Statutes in their respective states. This generally occurs within their respective counties, however they do have authority to cross county lines within state boundaries. Each of the counties has a marine patrol that can be conducted on the river. County sheriff activities are coordinated with State and Federal law enforcement agencies and assisted by the general public. The sheriff departments also enforce river management laws and rules adopted and implemented by the State Marine Board in Oregon and the Asotin County Shoreline Committee in Washington.



## **County and City Comprehensive Plans**

The Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the National Environmental Protection Act of 1969 (as amended) all encourage or mandate intergovernmental coordination, consultation and, where possible, plan consistency. Since the Omnibus Act envisioned a high reliance on local comprehensive plans to achieve the objectives of the Act, a review and analysis of the adequacy of the existing plans for Wallowa, Union counties in Oregon and Asotin county, Washington is critical.

The comprehensive plans for Wallowa and Union Counties in Oregon have been acknowledged by the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission and are in conformance with statewide planning goals and objectives. Under Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act all BLM plans, including RMP's and site-specific activity plans (such as the Wallowa/Grande Ronde River Plan), must be consistent, insofar as possible, with officially approved or adopted State and local agencies' resource related plans, policies and programs. Similarly, State-managed land must conform to Statewide Planning Goals and Objectives and support local comprehensive plans. Virtually all of the BLM and State-managed lands within the planning area are in county-designated "exclusive farm use" or various resource protection zones. Approved land uses compatible with the county plan guidelines for these zones include emphasis on natural values, livestock grazing, cultural, visual and recreation resource protection or enhancement.

## **Union County**

The Union County Comprehensive Plan was acknowledged by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) to be consistent with Statewide planning goals in 1985. The required periodic review and amendment process is currently underway. The amended plan will note Federal designation of the Lower Grande Ronde and continue to provide appropriate protection of State Scenic Waterway resources. Protective measures include setbacks for new construction on floodplain or near riparian areas and for homesteads on the river.

In summary, the current Union County plan provides a degree of specific or implied protection of natural and cultural resources. It supports diverse river-oriented recreational activities without formal policies on motorized river use, types of outfitter services or user fees. It is non-specific to river planning related public safety and service issues or potential solutions. There are no incorporated cities within the corridor within Union County.

## **Wallowa County**

The Wallowa County comprehensive plan was acknowledged by LCDC in 1978 and amended in 1988. The existing county plan zones most lands in the Wallowa/Grande Ronde River corridor for farm and timber use with a Goal 5 Inventory. The plan's intent is to not allow actions which might permanently destroy the natural value(s). There is also a "sensitive wildlife habitats overlay" with accompanying supplementary development standards to protect riparian corridors and fisheries habitat. The plan prescribes notification and coordination with state, and federal agencies when considering actions in the Wallowa/Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway. Visual resource protection considerations may restrict mineral development and location of structures. Fish and wildlife habitat are to be considered in approving land use and land management



activities. Historical, cultural and archaeological area preservation is promoted. Development in natural hazard areas is restricted. The plan promotes development and maintenance of recreational sites and trails. Continued appropriate use of agricultural lands is encouraged to maintain the rural economy. Comprehensive planning for Wallowa County also includes the communities of Minam and Troy.

The Wallowa County Emergency Services Plan coordinates available equipment and personnel resources for a wide variety of potential situations. This includes search and rescue, hazardous material spills, and enforcement for large organized recreational and/or competitive events.

In summary, the current Wallowa County plan provides a high degree of specific protection of natural and cultural resources in the Wallowa/Grande Ronde River corridor. It supports diverse non-motorized river-oriented recreational activities without specific policies on outfitter services or user fees. The Wallowa County Emergency Services Plan supports public safety and services, but is not specifically related to river planning issues and potential solutions.

### **Asotin County**

The Asotin County Shoreline Plan was completed in draft in 1974. The required update is currently underway. Expected amendments or revisions may include changes in policy statements which have been superseded by State law. The existing plan acknowledges and protects river related resource values associated with the lower 36 miles of the Grande Ronde River and includes the communities of Boggan's and Heller Bar. The existing plan identifies all lands in the Lower Grande Ronde River corridor for exclusive farm use and rural residential. Conditional land uses are only

permitted if both county plan standards and shoreline objectives are met.

The plan identifies potential natural hazards, sensitive fish, wildlife and plant habitats, significant visual resources and water quality protection needs. The plan constrains potential mineral development, urges the use of low toxicity pesticides and provides for the protection of historical resources. The plan supports recreation site, trail and facility development, provided that adequate protection is offered to adjoining landowners and on-site sensitive resources. Improved and additional recreational access receives limited endorsement. The absence of extensive population growth has resulted in few new structures in the river corridor since the shoreline plan was drafted. There are no incorporated cities within the river corridor in Asotin County.

In summary the Asotin County Shoreline plan provides a moderate degree of specific protection of natural and cultural resources in the Grande Ronde River corridor. It supports recreational and economic activities that complement the agricultural lifestyle and economic base of the county.

### **Plan Summary**

This river management plan establishes a comprehensive set of actions to provide the Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers a level of resource protection, management, and public use consistent with the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Oregon State Scenic Waterways Act. The plan covers the 10 mile segment of the Wallowa River from Minam to Rondowa and an 80 mile segment of the Grande Ronde from Rondowa to Heller Bar.

The Wallowa/Grande Ronde rivers management plan develops management strategies for public and private land within the river corridors. These strategies include cooperative developments and jointly funded



projects. The plan is primarily focused on activities within the corridor that may affect or be affected by the National Wild and Scenic Rivers designation, the Oregon State Scenic Waterways designation, the Asotin County Shoreline program, and agency land use plans.

## **Location and Access**

The Wallowa/Grande Ronde Rivers corridor from Minam, Oregon to Heller Bar, Washington is located in northeast Oregon in Wallowa and Union Counties and in southeast Washington in Asotin County (Map 1).

Boating access (put-in) and landing (take-out) points on the Wallowa/Grande Ronde Rivers are largely determined by motor vehicle accessibility. The most popular put-in point from which to begin a float trip is located near the town of Minam at the confluence of the Minam and the Wallowa Rivers off State Highway 82. Other popular put-in points include Mud Creek on the Grande Ronde River (one-half mile downstream from the Powwatka Bridge above Troy), the town of Troy, and Boggan's Oasis in Washington where State Highway 129 crosses the Grande Ronde.

The most frequently used take-out points on the upper half of the Grande Ronde (above Troy) are Mud Creek, and the town of Troy. The most popular take-out points on the lower Grande Ronde (below Troy) are Shumaker and Heller Bar near the confluence of the Grande Ronde and Snake Rivers.

Most sections of the Wallowa and Grande Ronde are roadless and primitive. Along the Wallowa River, the Union Pacific Railroad follows the river for 10 miles. A country road parallels the Grande Ronde River for 27 miles from the

Powwatka Bridge at Wildcat Creek, downstream to Boggan's Oasis, Washington.

## **Area Size and Ownership**

The land along the Wallowa and the Grande Ronde Rivers is managed by either private landowners or public agencies. Boise Cascade Corporation and several local ranchers control land use along the Wallowa River from Minam to approximately 2 miles below the confluence of the Wallowa and the Grande Ronde Rivers. The BLM manages 340 acres along the east bank of the Wallowa River. On the stretch of the Grande Ronde between its confluence with the Wallowa River and the town of Troy, the Walla Walla Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest manages 17 miles of river frontage and the Baker Resource Area of the BLM's Vale District manages 9 miles. The remaining frontage, approximately 11 miles, is in State of Oregon or private ownership. On the lower half of the Grande Ronde, between Troy and the Snake River, a total of 48 miles, the Baker Resource Area of the BLM manages 13 miles of river frontage. The remaining 35 miles is in State (Oregon or Washington) and private ownership.

State ownership to the beds of navigable waterbodies was granted to Oregon in 1859 as an incidence of statehood and is an inherent attribute of state sovereignty protected by the U.S. Constitution. Currently, both the state and federal government and in some cases private property owners, claim ownership of the river's bed and bank. While the long term resolution of this issue is not the subject of this river plan, the future management implications are obvious. Therefore, while there may be disagreement on ownership, it is vitally important that there be agreement on the management philosophy for the Wallowa/Grande Ronde Rivers.

Under state law, the Division of State Lands (DSL) is responsible for the management of



the beds and banks of navigable waterbodies (ORS 274.005-274.590). DSL is the administrative arm of the State Land Board (the Board), composed of the Governor, Secretary of State, and State Treasurer. Under constitutional and statutory guidelines, the Board is responsible for managing the assets of the Common School Fund. These assets include the beds and banks of Oregon's navigable waterways and are to be managed for the greatest benefit of the people of this state, consistent with the conservation of this resource under sound techniques of land management. Protection of public trust values of navigation, fisheries, and public recreation are of paramount importance, too.

The original federal test for determining navigability was established in The Daniel Ball case over 100 years ago. This U.S. Supreme Court case clarified that rivers "are navigable in fact when they are used, or susceptible of being used, in their ordinary condition, as highways of commerce ..." Interpreting this requirement, subsequent court decisions have ruled that a waterbody is navigable if it is capable of use as a public highway for transporting goods or for travel. The Federal test for navigability and court determination has not been made for the Willamette/Grande Ronde Rivers.

Within state owned waterways, any activities or land uses such as new utility or transportation corridors and boat ramps or similar facilities that impose into or cross a navigable waterway below ordinary high water will require an easement from the State Land Board. Existing facilities will require an easement at such time as they undergo major structural alteration, replacement, or relocation. In addition, removal of sand and gravel requires a royalty lease and any use that occupies any area of

submerged or submersible land requires a waterway lease.

DSL has determined that there is sufficient evidence to support a claim of navigability and state ownership for beds and banks of the Willamette River at least from Minam, OR (RM10) to Rondowa, OR (RM-0-), and the Grande Ronde River from Rondowa, OR (RM82) to OR/WA stateline (RM 38.7). The position of the BLM and Forest Service is that navigability is a judicial finding and must be made by a Federal Court. Most Oregon rivers have not been determined to be navigable or non-navigable. The BLM and Forest Service considers rivers non-navigable until proven otherwise. However, a trial may not be required if the evidence is persuasive and all partners agree. Nonetheless, the final position of the BLM and Forest Service must be based on consultation with appropriate legal counsel (Department of Justice) and the proper filing of a court stipulation. For those rivers found non-navigable, the BLM and Forest Service manages the bed and bank for the people of the United States where public lands border the river.

The DSL also administers the State's Removal-Fill Law which protects Oregon's waterways from uncontrolled alteration. The law requires a permit for fill or removal of more than 50 cubic yards of material within the State's waterway. The permit-review process involves coordination with the natural resource and land use agencies from the local through the federal levels. Within Oregon Scenic Waterways, special authorization is needed from the Board and DSL for "any alteration of the beds and banks of the Willamette/Grande Ronde Rivers within the plan area." (ORS 390.835).

As with any jointly managed resource, jurisdiction is not as important as care for the resource. The DSL, BLM and the Forest Service will continue to work together to assure that the public trust, interest, and the purpose of the Wild and Scenic River's Act



and Oregon State Scenic Waterway's Act are met.

## **Public Involvement**

Extensive public involvement has occurred since the Wallowa/Grande Ronde River planning process began in 1988. Several groups of volunteers contributed a large amount of time and effort in the initial stages of the process. A series of 16 meetings were held to begin identifying issues for each river segment. Many members of the public participated in these early scoping meetings. Meetings were held in Baker, OR; LaGrande, OR; Troy, OR; Enterprise, OR; Richland, OR; Ukiah, OR; Pendleton, OR; Imnaha, OR; and Clarkston, WA. Approximately 600 people attended these scoping meetings, providing the BLM and Forest Service with an extensive list of issues and concerns to be addressed during the planning effort. Coupled with the public scoping meetings, over 2,000 interest cards were mailed to the agencies along with numerous letters and telephone calls. These contacts represent a large cross section of interested river publics.

In 1989, the BLM established two citizens Ad Hoc Work Groups, one in Oregon and one in Washington, to provide planning direction for the development of the Wallowa/Grande Ronde River Management Plan. These teams consisted of representatives from state agencies, county government, Indian Nations, local communities, conservation groups, forest industries, agricultural industries, commercial outfitters, noncommercial recreation groups, and private landowners. The two citizens teams have spent many hours of volunteer time meeting with their constituents, attending team meetings, developing plan objectives, formulating issues and management alternatives. To

date, the teams have met 33 times in different locals from Joseph, OR., to Asotin, WA., providing the agencies with invaluable assistance in developing the Wallowa/Grande Ronde River Management Plan.

During this same period, the Forest Service, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, established an Ad-Hoc citizens planning team to assist them in the development of a Suitability/Eligibility Study for the Wallowa River from Minam to Rondowa, under the direction of the 1988 Rivers Act. The study is independent of this management plan. However, the issues identified under the Wallowa River segment of this plan, and many of the management actions, are a direct result of their input.

A summary of public comments received thus far in the planning process is included in Appendix F.

## **Conformance With Existing Management Plans**

The Baker Resource Management Plan (BLM) and the Umatilla Forest Plan (FS) support the development of this plan as directed by the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and Oregon State Scenic Waterways Act for those river segments within Oregon and the Baker Resource Management plan for the Washington segment. This river plan is also in conformance with the Oregon State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the Asotin County Shoreline Plan in Washington.

The Baker RMP provides the following decision on the Grande Ronde ACEC: Public lands on the Grande Ronde River (9,715 acres) in Oregon and Washington, and on the Snake River in Washington, are designated and will be managed as an ACEC. Within the ACEC, approximately 2,570 acres of BLM lands are included within the boundaries of the Grande Ronde Wild and Scenic River. The ACEC will be



managed to promote protection of the area's unique natural, scenic, geologic, ecologic, and cultural resource values; and to protect wildlife habitat and enhance recreation opportunities. Geologic system values of the Goosenecks National Natural Landmark will be protected. The visual resource will be protected within the viewshed corridor along the rivers; only those uses compatible with maintaining visual resource classifications will be allowed. Habitat for bald eagles, raptors, game and non-game species, and anadromous fish will be maintained or improved in cooperation with federal and state agencies. An ACEC management plan will be developed to protect natural, scenic, cultural and recreation values. Adjacent lands or inholdings may be acquired to enhance wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and recreational opportunities. A "no surface occupancy" restriction will be applied to oil and gas exploration or development. Off-road vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails. Commercial timber harvest will be restricted to prescriptions that protect or enhance natural, visual, and cultural values.

The Wallowa/Grande Ronde Rivers management plan is in conformance with the Baker RMP and amends the Umatilla Forest Plan and is the primary management document for the river corridor.

## Management Objectives and Constraints

Management objectives are identified by river segment.

- **Wallowa River Segment** - Recognize that the Wallowa River Canyon is a multiple use corridor and provides a transitional gateway to the Wild and Scenic Grande Ronde River. The

objective is to maintain and enhance the current quality and balance of the physical, social, economic, cultural, and other special values that give the free flowing Wallowa River its unique character.

- **Grande Ronde Wild and Scenic River Segment** - Maintain and/or enhance the physical, biological, social, economic, cultural, and other special qualities that give the free-flowing Grande Ronde River its unique character. Recognize the validity and importance of existing private land uses while protecting and enhancing the natural and cultural resources that are shared with adjacent public lands. The management plan shall reflect the different mix of uses, ownership and development on each segment.

- **Rondowa to Forest Boundary (Recreation Classification)**

- Mostly private land.
- Historically been managed for commodity production.
- Provides access to the wild section.

- **Forest Boundary to Wildcat Creek (Wild Classification)**

- Mostly public land.
- Relatively primitive and undeveloped.

- **Wildcat to Stateline (Recreation Classification)**

- Mostly private.
- Includes a rural community & river residences.
- Supports broad spectrum of public and private uses.



- **Grande Ronde River Washington Segment**

- The BLM has the responsibility to manage the recreation use of the Grande Ronde River from Minam, Oregon on the Wallowa River, to Heller Bar on the Snake River in Washington.
- The intent of this planning effort, within the State of Washington, is to develop a recreation management plan, both process and product, for public lands and recommend guidelines on private land that are consistent with, and contribute to, plans developed by state and local agencies, resulting in a cooperative management environment whereby all benefit, including resources.

## **Management Constraints**

Factors which, because of law, regulation, policy, or circumstance influence the development of this river management plan are as follows:

1. The rivers corridor is within two states and three counties.
2. The first segment is designated a Study River, the second segment is designated as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the third segment is not identified under national legislation.
3. The Oregon segment is under the Oregon State Scenic Waterways

program and the Washington segment is under the Asotin County Shoreline Program.

4. There are two federal agencies and five state agencies with land ownership responsibility in the 90 mile corridor.
5. Vehicle access to the Oregon segment is limited above Mud Creek. While below Mud Creek, vehicle access is abundant.
6. There are a limited number of public land campsites within the corridor.
7. Both federal and state listed sensitive, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species are present within the corridor.
8. Many significant historic and prehistoric sites exist within the canyon complex.
9. Requirements of rural communities of Minam, Troy, Boggan's, and Heller Bar.
10. The river corridor supports year round recreational opportunities.
11. Multi-resource activities are prevalent within the canyon corridor.
12. Approximately 38 percent of the corridor is in private ownership.
13. One Indian Nation, the Nez Perce Tribe has treaty rights within the corridor.

## **Issues**

The Oregon and Washington citizens Ad-Hoc planning teams spent many hours developing broad issue categories developed from issues identified at 16 public scoping meetings.



The recognition and resolution of important issues is the key to successful planning and management. This section identifies critical issues to be considered in the alternatives and addresses program emphasis related to river planning, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the State Scenic Waterway Act, and the Asotin County Shoreline Program. These issues are carried forward throughout this document for alternative development and analysis.

## **- Wallowa River Segment -**

### **Issue 1 - Forestry**

River management may limit timber management options and opportunities. A significant portion of the Wallowa River Corridor is commercial timberland and as such is capable of providing an economic return to the landowner from timber management. Additionally, management actions taken in the Corridor can have an impact on the health of adjoining timber, either positive or negative.

Although the amount of timber and timberland in the Corridor is relatively low, it has a cumulative impact on the overall timber supply in the local market area. The ability to continue to manage their lands in an economically efficient manner is of prime concern to the affected landowners.

### **Issue 2 - Fish/Wildlife**

River management could affect anadromous and resident fish species; primarily migration and rearing areas for anadromous fish, and spawning and rearing areas for resident fish. Additionally Howard Creek, a major tributary entering the Wallowa River from the east, provides valuable spawning habitat for summer steelhead. The Spring Chinook salmon which use this area are currently being considered by

the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for listing as threatened and endangered species.

A year-round supply of clean, cool water is required to support healthy fish populations. Numerous activities inside and outside the corridor could have an impact on both water quality, and anadromous and resident fish populations.

River management could affect options for management of numerous game and nongame species. Of particular interest are big game species, primarily mule deer and Rocky Mountain elk and their respective wintering habitats. Additionally, numerous species of furbearers (e.g., beaver, otter, raccoon, etc.), nongame mammals and birds utilize the area on a year-round basis. The corridor provides valuable wintering habitat for bald eagles and nesting and rearing habitat for numerous other bird species including the Lewis' and Pileated woodpeckers. Of primary concern are the potential loss of winter hiding and thermal cover for the mule deer and Rocky Mountain elk, and snags for bald eagle perching and roosting sites. Additionally, loss of any riparian cover could have an adverse effect on a wide variety of game and nongame animals.

### **Issue 3 - Social and Economic Considerations**

Changes in how the river corridor is managed can alter the mix and the scope of economic opportunities as well as the mix and magnitude of impacts on sociological values.

The economy and associated culture of the local area is primarily natural resource commodity based, e.g. Agriculture and Timber. Recreation and the Arts are a comparatively small but expanding segment of the economy. Commercial recreation, outfitters and guides, are improving local economies through their business efforts.



#### Issue 4 - Recreation

River management could affect recreational use of the river. Recreational use of the lower Wallowa River has a major economic, social, and biological influence on Union and Wallowa counties.

#### Issue 5 - Scenery

River management could affect the scenic qualities of the lower Wallowa River Canyon. Steadily increasing recreational use is already having its effect.

#### Issue 6 - Cultural Resources

River management could affect cultural resource sites.

#### Issue 7 - Livestock

River management could have an impact on livestock management options.

The proposed project area has historically been grazed by livestock and access to the river is necessary to provide a balance of grazing on the adjoining lands and maintain viable economic units.

#### Issue 8 - Transportation

River management could have an impact on transportation use and opportunities. The proposed project area has historically been used as a transportation route by the railroad, lumber industry, Native Americans, livestock industry, river runners, and others.

#### Issue 9 - Hydro-power (Water Resources)

Changes in how the river is managed may affect opportunities for hydro-power development.

#### Issue 10 - Landowner Rights

Changes in how the river is managed may affect land owners decisions in managing and/or developing their property.

#### Issue 11 - Biodiversity

River management could impact both the current and future level of biodiversity of the Wallowa River and canyon corridor. Changes in biodiversity could result from ground or vegetative alteration, recreation use, or could result from management aimed at protecting and enhancing species and community compositions and the ecologic functions.

#### **- Grande Ronde River, Wild and Scenic River Segment -**

#### Issue 1 - Land

River management may affect the type of grazing and at what utilization levels, and may direct management systems and facilities that are appropriate to achieve desired management objectives.

River management may determine what role fire should play in achieving desired vegetative types and conditions. It may determine levels of fire control and rehabilitation, and may also determine management actions desirable to eliminate or reduce, to acceptable levels, fuel build-up and hazards that are a result of past management and/or natural catastrophic events. Complexities and consequences of boundaries and ownerships may also be addressed in relation to fire management.

Management approaches may determine tolerable levels of undesirable weeds, insects and disease.

Corridor management may affect the range of prescriptions available for timber management and the potential economic aspects of accomplishing desired conditions.



River management could affect the range of agricultural practices available and the potential economic aspects of accomplishing the desired conditions.

Management of the river corridor could affect the extraction of mineral resources.

## Issue 2 - Social

River management should strive to ensure that river users co-exist and that local residents and livelihoods remain intact. Management could protect livelihoods and landowner's rights and meet the goals of the act. Prescriptions may recognize, protect and/or compensate for loss of private landowner rights and privileges.

Corridor management may provide for recreational opportunities within limitations that land ownership, access, environmental requirements and social acceptance will accommodate. Management may provide for appropriate development and still protect the outstandingly remarkable values.

River management may address cumulative impacts on the economic viability and way of life of people in the area, and could affect the economic and social values of the region and the country. Management could recognize and make considerations for traditional, socio-economic lifestyles and address equitable distribution of opportunities among user categories.

River management could address the sociological implications of various management options and plan to accommodate unforeseen sociological impacts.

## Issue 3 - Cultural/Aesthetics

Corridor management should protect and perpetuate the sensory and cultural attributes of the river corridor as defined in management objectives and promote a sense of pride and stewardship by all users of the corridor.

Management may strive to accommodate the multitude of definitions of what is aesthetically desirable.

River management should meet the sociological expectations as defined in management objectives and the legal requirements of current, historic, and prehistoric cultural resources.

## Issue 4 - Water

River management could cause degradation of water quality and/or quantity within the corridor. Management should look for opportunities to solve known problems and encourage actions to improve water quality and/or quantity in the corridor when feasible.

## Issue 5 - Biological

River management may take a holistic approach to management of the biological resources and consider implications beyond artificial boundaries. Management may foster maintenance and enhancement of fish and wildlife populations and habitats and provide options for change as new information becomes available. Corridor management may provide direction for restoration of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species and habitats, while providing for the basic ecological requirements for fish and wildlife.

Corridor management may encourage understanding and cooperation of all participants in the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of riparian areas. Management should consider options for



change with the development of new information.

River management could promote a wide variety of flora and fauna species and their associated habitats without unduly risking any one native species existence. Short term management could foster long term biodiversity and productivity.

#### Issue 6 - Administration

River management could identify the level of control of user numbers and activities to meet the requirements and intent of the state and federal acts and management objectives. Management may ensure controls continue to be appropriate and provide for equitable distribution of the resource at all levels. Appropriate mechanisms should be in place to allow for coordination between the managing agencies.

Management within the river corridor may accommodate the concept of a viable economic unit that results in resource protection and minimizes impacts to landowners. Management could address resource protection within the corridor and impacts outside the corridor. It could also encourage management actions outside the corridor, within the basin, which help to meet the goals of the Acts.

Corridor management may determine the level of agency acquisition appropriate to accomplish the intent of the acts and management objectives.

Costs to implement river management should be responsive to meeting the intent of state and federal legislation, emergency situations (catastrophic events), and economic efficiency for the public good.

River management may contain mechanisms to respond to catastrophic events.

Management of the river corridor should include an informal process for dispute resolution.

Corridor management may provide for water right maintenance of flows sufficient to meet the purposes of the acts without impacting water rights which are protected by the acts.

River management may address the who, what, when, where, and how of law enforcement, liability, and public safety.

River administration boundaries should incorporate those values the river was designated for without unduly including areas not required to meet those values, and should be easily identified by private and public entities. Where possible, the boundaries could be common for the state and federal designations.

River management may balance the existing and future needs for utilities and transportation (including maintenance) consistent with the purposes for which the river was designated and overall management objectives.

#### **- Grande Ronde River, Washington Segment -**

#### Issue 1 - Private Land

River Management will consider the social, economic and cultural implications on local residents and surrounding communities.

Changes in landownership will be undertaken only with the participation of willing parties, and makes no provision for private land condemnation.

Agricultural practices, water rights and the use and applications of herbicides and



pesticides are, currently and will continue to be, governed by state and local regulations.

Management actions concerning private land are, currently and will continue to be, governed by state and local regulations.

## Issue 2 - Environmental

Manage the river corridor to protect and enhance the habitats of fish and wildlife species. Cooperate with the WA & OR Departments of Fish & Wildlife in protecting and restoring habitats and populations.

Manage the river corridor to protect and enhance the river riparian area.

Manage the river corridor to protect and enhance the river water quality to meet and/or exceed state and federal requirements in cooperation with the State of Oregon and Washington.

Identify and implement systems which provide for the removal and disposal of solid waste from the river corridor.

Identify and implement systems which control noxious weeds.

Visual resource objectives are to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen but should not dominate the attention of the casual observer.

River impoundments/energy diversions and developments shall comply with all Asotin County shoreline objectives and State and Federal regulations.

Monitor and initiate programs necessary to protect and enhance identified

Threatened & Endangered Species (plant & animal populations).

Assess impacts of chemical application to plant and animal populations prior to use. Integrated pest management should be encouraged as an alternative to chemical application where appropriate.

## Issue 3 - Public Land/Management

Develop partnerships for recreation & Resource management programs with private landowners, interested publics and all federal, state and local management agencies with jurisdictional responsibilities.

Public lands within the Washington section of the Grande Ronde River corridor should be managed to emphasize the recreational opportunities that the river provides.

Authorizations for development, construction and/or maintenance of facilities on public lands should be in compliance with visual and environmental objectives.

Develop an information and education program for all river corridor users which focuses upon minimizing user conflicts. Work with other entities to coordinate information and education materials.

Establish use regulations which address identified user conflicts.

Monitoring will be used to determine compliance with regulations and to determine if regulations are meeting the intent.

Livestock management actions should be in conformance with river management objectives within the corridor.

Plan will strive to coordinate objectives with land use management plans developed by Federal, State and County entities.



Recreation use should be consistent with management objectives and be directed toward public land opportunities.

Various public information materials will be made available and distributed based upon need and purpose.

Monitoring programs will be established to determine appropriate levels of use, resource protection, and/or enhancement within the corridor consistent with overall management objectives.

Management actions must consider and document the social, economic and cultural implications on local residents and surrounding communities.

#### Issue 4 - Recreation

River management will consider the social, economic, and cultural implications on local residents and surrounding communities.

Recreation objective statement "The lower Grande Ronde River (Washington Section) should be managed to provide (family) recreation opportunities within the limitations that land ownership, access, and environmental requirements will accommodate.

Manage recreation use in keeping with the social, environmental, and physical capacity of the river corridor to sustain a high quality experience.

Develop an information and education program for users.

Access should be commensurate with the use levels recommended by the management plan.

Carrying capacities will be identified for recreation use.

Establish environmental, social, and physical monitoring studies to determine impacts of human use on river resources.

Develop, maintain, or improve recreation facilities on public land necessary for resource protection and recreation management consistent with a overall management objectives.

Private recreation facilities development should be encouraged to be in compliance with overall recreation management objectives.

#### Issue 5 - Cultural

Manage the river corridor to protect, enhance and interpret appropriate cultural resource sites in cooperation with applicable agencies, historical societies and the Nez Perce Tribe.

Preservation of cultural and traditional use sites, and treaty rights of the Nez Perce Tribe.

### **Summary of Alternatives**

The summary of alternatives by river segment are found in tables 2-4.



**Table 2 - Wallowa River Segment - Summary of Alternative**

<p><b>A. (Preferred Alternative)</b> Protect and Enhance Study River Values with emphasis on private landowner interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will not actively pursue acquisitions.</li> <li>- Enhance Study River values on Public Land and Waters</li> <li>- "Protect" Private Land from unwanted recreational use.</li> <li>- County/State regulations on private land.</li> <li>- Reduce impact/conflicts of recreation use on private land in River corridor.</li> </ul>	<p><b>B. Protect and Enhance Study River Values with emphasis on Recreation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Actively pursue acquisition.</li> <li>- Enhance all Study River Values within corridor regardless of land ownership.</li> <li>- Develop intense information and education programs.</li> <li>- Utilize Social Factors as the "limiting" factors for carrying capacity.</li> <li>- Promote types of recreation use according to river segment classification.</li> </ul>	<p><b>C. Protect and Enhance Study River Values with emphasis on Naturalness (Wildlife/Fisheries/Vegetation).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cater to "Primitive" end of spectrum for Recreation.</li> <li>- Biological factors determine carrying capacity.</li> <li>- Actively pursue acquisitions (including condemnation).</li> <li>- Regulate commodity uses.</li> <li>- Limit access and developments.</li> <li>- Maximize challenges and self reliance.</li> <li>- Restrictions on public use of public and private land.</li> </ul>	<p><b>D. No Action plus meeting minimum legislative intent.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No planned enhancement of Study River Values.</li> <li>- Allow level and degree of existing uses to continue.</li> <li>- Meet legal requirements with minimum use of regulations.</li> <li>- No acquisition of rights by condemnation.</li> <li>- Will not actively pursue land acquisition.</li> </ul>
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**Table 3 - Grande Ronde River Designated Segment -  
Summary of Alternatives**

A. Maximize Multiple Use within the parameters of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act.	B. (Preferred Alternative) Protect and Enhance ORV's on Public Land. Protect and encourage enhancement of ORV's on private land. Protection of private landowner rights. - County and State regulations on private land. - Meet legal requirements on private land with minimum use of regulations. - Reduce impacts/conflicts of recreation use of private land in Wild and Scenic Rivers corridor. - Land owner assistance for ORV enhancement. - Will not actively pursue acquisition/easements except from willing parties. - Acquisition of private land will not result in a net loss to Wallowa County tax base. - Emphasize multiple use of river corridor resource. - No restriction on search and rescue techniques within corridor. - Implement State Scenic Waterway Administrative Rules for river corridor. - Develop intense I&E Program for all river users. - Provide specific management direction for anadromous and resident fish programs. - Restrict motorized water craft from river from Umatilla Forest Boundary to Oregon/Washington state line. - Establish citizens team to assist agencies in river management issues. - Resolve conflicts on private land by starting at the local jurisdictional level.	C. Protect and Enhance ORV's with emphasis on recreation. - Actively pursue acquisition. - Enhance all ORV's within corridor regardless of land ownership. - Develop intense information and education programs. - Utilize Social Factors as the "limiting" factors for carrying capacity. - Promote types of recreation use according to river segment classification.	D. Protect and Enhance ORVs with emphasis on Naturalness (Wildlife/Fisheries/Vegetation) - Cater to "Primitive" end of spectrum for Recreation. - Biological factors determine carrying capacity. - Actively pursue acquisitions (including condemnation). - Regulate commodity uses. - Limit access and developments. - Maximize challenges and self reliance. - Restrictions on public use of public and private land.	E. No Action plus meeting minimum legislative intention. - No planned enhancement of ORVs. - Allow level and degree of existing uses to continue. - Meet legal requirement with minimum use of regulations. - No acquisition of rights by condemnation. - Will not actively pursue land acquisition.
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**Table 4: Grande Ronde River Washington Segment - Summary of Alternatives**

<p><b>A. Promote maximum resource utilization within the parameters of local, state, &amp; federal law, regulations, and/or policy within the river corridor.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protect River Values.</li> <li>- Utilize Physical Factors as limiting factors for carrying capacity.</li> <li>- Emphasize Highly Developed Recreation.</li> <li>- Emphasize Multiple Resource Facilities &amp; Service Developments.</li> <li>- Emphasize Economic Potential of the Resource.</li> <li>- Develop additional Road &amp; Trail access.</li> <li>- Will not actively pursue land acquisition.</li> </ul>	<p><b>B. (Preferred Alternative): Protect and/or enhance natural values. Emphasize private land owner rights.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public agencies will not actively pursue acquisitions/easements.</li> <li>- Enhance River Values on Public Land &amp; Waters.</li> <li>- Pursue assistance for resource improvements on private land at owner request.</li> <li>- County/State regulations apply on private land.</li> <li>- Meet legal requirements on private land with minimum use of regulations.</li> <li>- Promote recreational activities and develop facilities which are compatible with the present physical and social character of the corridor.</li> <li>- Reduce impact/conflicts of recreation use on private land in corridor.</li> <li>- Develop and implement public information and education materials and programs for interpretation and proper use of the Corridor.</li> </ul>	<p><b>C. Protect and enhance natural values. Emphasize recreation opportunities compatible with resource protection.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Actively pursue land acquisition.</li> <li>- Enhance River Values within corridor regardless of land ownership.</li> <li>- Develop intensive info-education programs.</li> <li>- Utilize Social Factors as "limiting" factors for carrying capacity.</li> <li>- Encourage low-impact recreation uses/activities.</li> <li>- Regulate commodity uses.</li> <li>- Limit access and developments.</li> </ul>	<p><b>D. No Action beyond present management direction from various agencies.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No planned enhancement of River Values.</li> <li>- Meet legal requirement with minimum use of regulations.</li> <li>- Level and degree of existing uses neither discouraged or encouraged.</li> <li>- Low priority for acquisition of easements or lands.</li> </ul>
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## Physiography

The Grande Ronde River, which drains much of northeast Oregon's Union and Wallowa Counties, is fed by snowpack in the Blue Mountains. The Wallowa River, a major tributary to the Grande Ronde, headwaters in the Wallowa Mountains, mostly within Eagle Cap Wilderness. These river sections are characterized by steep, rugged canyon walls that rise from 3,000 to 4,000 feet above river level. Dense conifer forests blend into grassy slopes set off by scattered conifer "stringers". The Nez Perce called the Wallowa River valley "Land of Winding Waters". The river drops nearly 2,000 feet in elevation during the 90 mile section from Minam to Heller Bar on the Snake River in Washington.

## Watershed

The Grande Ronde River rises in the Elkhorn Range of the Blue Mountains in northeastern Oregon. On its 212 mile northeasterly journey to the Snake River, it drains 3,701 square miles in Oregon and 249 square miles in Washington. One of its tributaries, the 54 mile Wallowa River, begins at Wallowa Lake, which is fed by streams originating in the Eagle Cap Wilderness. It drains 928 square miles in the central area of the Grande Ronde basin. The basin's topography is characterized by rugged mountains in the headwater areas, which give way to the broad Grande Ronde and Wallowa River valleys. The plateaus of the lower basin are dissected by precipitous canyons. The dominant land cover changes from forested land at higher elevations to rangeland at lower elevations. Large areas in the Grande Ronde and Wallowa valleys are used for agriculture, of which about two-thirds are irrigated.

The lower ten miles of the Wallowa River, beginning at the confluence of the Minam River, is being evaluated for inclusion in the Federal Wild and Scenic River system; this stretch was designated an Oregon State Scenic Waterway in 1988. The Grande Ronde River, from Rondowa to state line, was added to both the federal and state scenic river systems in 1988. The most significant tributaries to the designated reach of the Grande Ronde are Wildcat, Mud, and Courtney Creeks, and the Wenaha River. The designated portions of the Wallowa-Grande Ronde Rivers flow through deep canyons exposing many layers of the Columbia flood basalt.

Average annual precipitation along these reaches is estimated to range between 15 and 30 inches. Peak precipitation occurs during the winter months. While the lower canyon and south slopes usually remain free of snow, considerable snow accumulates in side canyons and along the north slopes. Precipitation is lowest during July and August.

There is no gauge to measure stream flow on the Wallowa River near the designated reach. However, its flow near the town of Joseph and the flow of several of its tributaries exhibit a strong peak in the late spring and early summer, reflecting the snowmelt in the high Wallowa Mountains. The runoff characteristics of the Grande Ronde at the beginning of the designated reach and near its lower end are shown in Tables 5 and 6. The annual average flow at Rondowa (Table 5), including the contribution of the Wallowa, is 2,160 cubic feet per second (cfs). It increases to 3,125 cfs at Troy (Table 6). The flow is influenced slightly by small upstream reservoirs and irrigation diversions. At both stations, about 64 percent of the runoff occurs during the spring snowmelt from March through June. Only about 10 percent occurs during the months of lowest flow, August through November.



**Table 5: Average Monthly and Annual Runoff, 1927-1982**  
**Grande Ronde River at Rondowa**

Month	Minimum (CFS)	Maximum (CFS)	Mean (CFS)	Standard Deviation (CFS)	Coefficient of Variation	Percent of Annual Runoff
OCTOBER	343	1978	641	266	.41	2.5
NOVEMBER	342	3346	858	491	.57	3.3
DECEMBER	358	3942	1256	858	.68	4.8
JANUARY	298	3554	1326	845	.64	5.1
FEBRUARY	395	5029	1791	1055	.59	6.9
MARCH	611	7600	2674	1215	.45	10.3
APRIL	1498	8089	4274	1540	.36	16.5
MAY	1965	10010	5576	1795	.32	21.5
JUNE	1561	9662	4709	1914	.41	18.1
JULY	345	4692	1712	933	.54	6.6
AUGUST	269	1098	589	210	.36	2.3
SEPTEMBER	318	933	543	151	.28	2.1
ANNUAL	855	3416	2160	608	.28	100

**Table 6: Average Monthly and Annual Runoff, 1945-1982**  
**Grande Ronde River at Troy**

Month	Minimum (CFS)	Maximum (CFS)	Mean (CFS)	Standard Deviation (CFS)	Coefficient of Variation	Percent of Annual Runoff
OCTOBER	603	2559	915	320	.35	2.4
NOVEMBER	688	3023	1239	519	.42	3.3
DECEMBER	685	6295	2158	1544	.72	5.7
JANUARY	702	6280	2273	1363	.60	6.1
FEBRUARY	769	7386	3095	1612	.52	8.2
MARCH	888	11520	3893	1855	.48	10.4
APRIL	2257	10780	6335	2251	.36	16.9
MAY	2368	13820	7656	2496	.33	20.4
JUNE	2159	11610	6035	2112	.35	16.1
JULY	520	4951	2291	990	.43	6.1
AUGUST	448	1375	873	219	.25	2.3
SEPTEMBER	574	1190	798	140	.18	2.1
ANNUAL	1136	4912	3125	816	.26	100



## Water Rights

Under Oregon and Washington law, all water is publicly owned. With a few exceptions, a person who wishes to use water from any source -- a spring, well, lake or stream -- must obtain a permit from the Water Resources Departments. The water right issued by the Departments allows the use of a specific amount of water for a particular purpose. It also specifies the source from which the water is to be taken and the place where it is to be used. Water is allocated according to the doctrine of prior appropriation. Every water right has a priority date. When there is not sufficient water to satisfy all rightholders, those with older water rights can demand their water at the expense of those holding newer rights. A water right is usually required only if water is to be dammed or diverted from its source. Instream water rights can be secured by the state to protect stream flows for public purposes, such as support of fish life, pollution abatement, or recreation. Rivers are used for other purposes as well, such as boating or fishing, but such uses do not require the acquisition of a water right.

The following narrative summarizes the rights of record within a quarter-mile, approximately, of each side of the designated reaches of the Grande Ronde and Wallowa Rivers. There are no rights within the corridor of the Wallowa. Along the designated Grande Ronde, however, ten rights of record permit the diversion of slightly more than three cfs, primarily for irrigation uses. These rights are concentrated on the lower stretch of the river below Wildcat Creek.

The legal considerations affecting future water appropriations along the designated reaches of the Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers are discussed in this section. Three types of considerations are included: water use restrictions, Scenic Waterway/Wild and Scenic River designations, and instream water rights.

The Water Resources Commission and the State Legislature have the authority to restrict certain types of water use on a given stream. Such restrictions are adopted for a variety of reasons; e.g., to protect fish life or to assure a sufficient water supply for a planned irrigation project. The restrictions take effect after the date of adoption. That is, water may not be

appropriated for the specified use(s) after that date; however, existing water rights are not affected by the new restrictions.

The Oregon State Legislature has determined that "the highest and best uses of the waters within Scenic Waterways are recreation, fish and wildlife uses: (ORS 390.835). The statute prohibits placer mining, water impoundments, and new diversions. Alteration of the bed or banks of a Scenic Waterway is also restricted. To reflect provisions of the law, the Water Resources Commission has restricted the further appropriation of water for some uses within Scenic Waterways which were designated before the 1988 initiative. The Commission is expected to take similar action for the newly added waterways as basin programs are updated. In addition, the Commission must protect flows required for Scenic Waterway purposes from depletion through appropriation anywhere in the drainage. Under the Federal Wild and Scenic River Act (Public Law 90-542), new water projects requiring federal licensing may not be constructed on designated Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Act does not require the state to restrict water rights issuance in affected reaches. However, the Water Resources Commission will carefully consider Wild and Scenic Designations in its decisions on future water appropriations.

Several instream water rights have been adopted in the Grande Ronde drainage. Instream water rights have priority dates and are regulated in the same way as other water rights. When the water level in a river is below the instream water right level, holders of rights with later priority dates will be required to stop diverting water. Exceptions are made in some cases; consequently, instream flow requirements may not affect the appropriation of water for certain uses, such as domestic and livestock uses, or the use of water legally stored or released from storage.

## Water Quality

Oregon and Washington Statewide Water Quality Assessments identified erosion, elimination of thermal cover, disturbance by human or animal traffic, vegetation removal, water withdrawal, reservoir storage and release, altered physical characteristics of the stream, bank filling, channelization/wetland drainage, and animal waste, as the probable causes of the water quality problems found in this segment of the Wallowa/Grande Ronde Rivers. The rivers, while swimmable and fishable, do not have exceptionally



pure, clear or clean water. Stream temperatures exceed state water quality standards at certain times of the year and at different locations. It is characterized by non point source pollution that affects human recreation, fish and other aquatic life.

## Climate

The climate of the Blue Mountains physiographic province is characterized by a short growing season and little or no summer precipitation. Annual precipitation averages 20 inches per year and ranges from 15 to 30 inches, much of it falling as winter snow. Temperatures range from average summer high of 80°F. to a average winter low of 17°F. Summer temperatures fluctuate widely with hot days and cold nights. At higher elevations, frost can occur almost any night of the year. Winter temperatures remain low for long periods and considerable snow accumulates in side canyons and on north slopes. However, the lower canyon and south slopes remain free of snow most winters. Winter conditions can be severe in most of the Wallowa/Grande Ronde River area. The lower canyon offers the mildest conditions available in the area and has consequently been used as a winter range for wildlife.

## Fish and Wildlife

The fish and wildlife resources of the Wallowa/Grande Ronde Rivers corridor include a wide range of species and are listed in tables 7, 8, 9, and 10.

The lower canyons of the Wallowa and the Grande Ronde Rivers, below Minam, are important winter range for many game and non-game animals. The most important game animals include Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer, white tailed deer, bear, cougar, bighorn sheep, turkey, chukars, and Hungarian partridge, grouse, quail, ducks and geese. The non-game animals of most importance include the bald eagle, osprey, Peregrine falcon, golden eagle, harlequin ducks, Barrows and Common goldeneye duck, Lewis woodpecker, pine marten, river otter, and the western spotted frog.

Salmon and steelhead runs in the Grande Ronde and Wallowa Rivers have declined

precipitously in the last 100 years. Late in the nineteenth century more than 12,000 sockeye entered Wallowa Lake to spawn. Coho at the same time numbered at lease 5,000 in the Wallowa River. Both species are now extinct in the river system. More than 12,000 spring chinook were estimated to be entering the Grande Ronde River subbasin in the late 1960's but now number less than 1,000. No early estimates for fall chinook populations are available but recent surveys have found zero to seven redds in the Washington section. Nearly 16,000 summer steelhead were estimated to be entering the Grande Ronde system in the late 1960's while the present estimate is 11,000.

This decline is due to over harvest (especially in the late 1800's), irrigation diversions, Columbia and Snake River Dams and irrigation diversion dams, and turn of the century hatchery practices in the Grande Ronde and Wallowa Rivers. Irrigation diversions dry up portions of streams, divert juvenile salmonids onto the fields, and return silt laden water to the streams which smothers salmon eggs and food organisms. Irrigation diversion dams, which include gravel berms, were generally constructed without thought for fish passage. The Wallowa Lake Dam outlet is also impassable for adult fish migrating upstream to spawn.

The Lower Snake River Compensation Plan and associated hatcheries was developed to mitigate for losses of fish attributed to construction of the four lower Snake River dams. Three hatcheries were constructed (Lookingglass for spring chinook, Lyons Ferry for fall chinook, and Irrigon for steelhead), one hatchery was modified to eye-up summer steelhead eggs (Wallowa) and two satellite facilities were constructed as acclimation/release and adult capture sites (Big Canyon and Cottonwood Creek). The only species which has responded favorably to the current hatchery system is summer steelhead.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Wildlife, Washington Department of Fisheries, and Nez Perce Tribe biologists stress the importance of the lower Grande Ronde and Wallowa Rivers remaining in a free-flowing state for the protection and enhancement of the fishery on this river system. The lower river segments are especially important during winter months as holding areas for young salmon and steelhead on their migration downstream. The smaller streams in the upper tributaries of the rivers become too cold in winter



for the young fish to survive, so they move into the lower river as water temperatures drop. Likewise, adult steelhead migrating upstream move into the lower river and winter there, waiting for the spring runoff and warmer water

before moving upstream to spawn. Natural spawning areas in the tributaries of the upper Grande Ronde and Wallowa Rivers are important in the production and rearing of salmon and steelhead as fish stocks are re-introduced into these streams.

**Table 7: Mammals of the Wallowa/Grande Ronde Rivers Corridor**

Rocky Mountain Elk Mule Deer White-tailed Deer Bighorn Mountain Sheep Badger Bobcat Black Bear Mountain Lion Coyote Porcupine Deer Mouse	Bushy-tailed Packrat Mountain Cottontail Fisher Belding Ground Squirrel Pika Coast Mole Snowshoe Hare Black-tailed Jack Rabbit Least Chipmunk Yellow-pine Chipmunk Yellow-belly Marmot	Columbian Ground Squirrel Mantled Ground Squirrel Northern Pocket Gopher Western Skunk Beaver Harvest Mouse Canyon Mouse Voles (several burrowing species) Raccoon
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**Table 8: Fish of the Wallowa/Grande Ronde River Corridor**

Black Crappie Redband Trout Smallmouth Bass Bridgelip Sucker Large Scale Sucker Carp Dace Northern Squawfish	Brown Bullhead Catfish Bull Trout Steelhead Trout Peamouth Chiselmouth Brook Lamprey Spring Chinook Fall Chinook	Channel Catfish Rainbow Trout Whitefish Cottid Redside Shiner
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**Table 9: Reptiles and Amphibians of the Wallowa/Grande Ronde River Corridor**

Long-toed Salamander Western Toad Pacific Tree Frog Western Spotted Frog* Western Fence Lizard	Western Whiptail Rubber Boa Western Garter Snake Common Garter Snake Racer	Striped Whipsnake Gopher Snake Night Snake Western Rattlesnake
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\* Indicates species that are on the States and/or Federal rare, threatened, and endangered species list.



Table 10: Birds of the Wallowa/Grande Ronde Rivers Corridor

<p>Turkey Vulture  Ferruginous Hawk  Prairie Falcon  Peregrine Falcon*  Ruffed Grouse  White-throated Swift  Western Kingbird  Bank Swallow  Cliff Swallow  Black-billed Magpie  Gray Catbird  Swainson's Thrush  Cedar Wax-wing  Loggerhead Shrike  Solitary Vireo  Red-eyed Vireo  Warbling Vireo  Great Blue Heron  Mallard  Common Merganser  Red-tailed Hawk  Swainson's Hawk  Rough-legged Hawk  Olive-sided flycatcher  Northern Oriole  House Finch  Black Rosy Finch  Pileated Woodpecker  Hairy Woodpecker  White-headed Woodpecker  Lewis Woodpecker*  Downy Woodpecker  Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  Williamson's Sapsucker  Wood Duck  Bald Eagle*  Chickadee  Hooded Merganser  Barrow's Goldeneye*  Common Goldeneye*  Tree Swallow  Rough-winged Swallow  Violet-green Swallow  Western Bluebird</p>	<p>Goshawk  Cooper's Hawk  Hermit Thrush  Varied Thrush  Marsh Hawk  Blue Grouse  Turkey  Belted Kingfisher  Western Wood Peewee  Barn Swallow  Steller's Jay  Raven  Crow  Robin  Veery  Golden-Crowned Kinglet  Ruby Crowned Kinglet  Yellow-Breasted Chat  American Redstart  White-crowned Sparrow  Merlin  Chukar  Gray Partridge  Killdeer  Spotted Sandpiper  Snipe  Gray Jay  Brewer's Blackbird  Pine Siskin  Lazuli Bunting  Common Junco  Barred Owl  Flammulated Owl  Pygmy Owl  Long-eared Owl  Barn Owl  Screech Owl  Great Horned Owl  Saw-whet Owl  Common Merganser  Kestrel  White-breasted Nuthatch  Red-breasted Nuthatch  Pygmy Nuthatch  House Wren  Grosbeak</p>	<p>House Sparrow  Mountain Bluebird  Great Gray Owl  Long-eared Owl  Townsend's Solitaire  Townsend's Warbler  Sharpshinned Hawk  Calliope Hummingbird  Black-chinned Hummingbird  Broad-tailed Hummingbird  Rufus Hummingbird  Ash-throated flycatcher  Willow Flycatcher  Hammond's Flycatcher  Western Flycatcher  Orange-Crowned Warbler  Nashville Warbler  Yellow Warbler  Yellow-Rumped Warbler  Black-Throated Gray Warbler  Mac Gillivray's Warbler  Wilson's Warbler  Long-billed Marsh Wren  Canyon Wren  Rock Wren  Winter Wren  Audubon's Warbler  Meadow Lark  Horned Lark  Clark's Nutcracker  Tree Sparrow  Lincoln's Sparrow  Song Sparrow  American Gold Finch  House Finch  Osprey  Flicker  Black-capped Chickadee  Chestnut-backed Chickadee  Mountain Chickadee  Brown Creeper  Harlequin Duck*  Golden Eagle  Red Crossbill  Vaux's Swift</p>
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\* Indicates species that are on the States and/or Federal rare, threatened, and endangered species list.



# Vegetation

The Grande Ronde and Wallowa Rivers are within a ponderosa pine and grassland zone, however, the canyon has provided a "micro-climate" environment different enough to cause a distinct variation in the dominant vegetation.

**Table 11: Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers Botanical Survey, 1991**

## A. Plants of Special Interest

### 1. Federal T&E Lists

#### Federal Candidate C-2

Lepodactylon	pungens (Torr.)Nutt	ssp.hazeliae (Peck)Meinke
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### 2. Washington T&E Lists

#### Extirpated/Extinct List

Hackelia	hispidia (Gray)Johnst.	var. hispidia	Grande Ronde River Mile 23.5, N side
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#### Sensitive List

Astragalus	arthuri Jones		Grande Ronde River Mile 11, S side
Astragalus	cusickii Gray	var. cusickii	Grande Ronde River, Mile 23.5 N side
Lomatium	serpentinum(M.E.Jones)Mat h.		Grande Ronde River, Deer Cr Mile 19

### 3. Oregon T&E Lists

#### Federal T&E Candidate

#### Oregon (ODA) T&E Candidate

#### Oregon Natural Heritage Program (NHP)

#### List 1

Lepodactylon	pungens (Torr.)Nutt	ssp.hazeliae (Peck)Meinke
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#### List 3 (Review List)

Corydalis	caseana Gray	var. cusickii (Wats.)Hitchc.	Wallowa River Mile 8, below Minam St Park
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#### List 4 (Watch List)

Allium	madidum Wats		W bank of Wallowa River, Mile 2.2
Cyripedium	montanum Dougl.		West side of Wallowa River at Mile 8

## B. Regional Endemics

Lupinus	sulphureus Dougl.	var. sulphureus	Wallowa River, Mile 5.0, E. side
Nemophila	kirtleyi Hend.		Grande Ronde R., Mile 11, S side
Penstemon	fruticosus Dougl.	v. serratus (Keck) Cronq	Grande Ronde R., Mile 63.8, N side
Phlox	colubrina Wherry&Const.		Grande Ronde R., Mile 11, S side
Phlox	viscida E. Nels.		50 yds NE SR 129 Bridge, mile 26.2



## C. Other Native Species

Achillea	millefolium L.	ssp. lanulosa (Nutt) Piper var. lanulosa	SR 129 Grande Ronde River Mile 26.2
Allium	acuminatum Hook.		Grande Ronde River, Mile 63.8, N side
Allium	macrum Wats.		SR 129 Grande Ronde River Mile 26.2
Allium	tolmiei Baker	var. occidentale (Dippel) Hitchc	GR River, Mi 58.3 (Opp Sickfoot Cr)
Alnus	incana (L.) Moench	var. pumila (Nutt.) A. Nels.	West side of Wallowa River at Mile 8
Amelanchier	alnifolia Nutt.		Grande Ronde River, Mi 11, S side
Amsinckia	menziesii (Lehm.) Nels & Macbr.		Island in Grande Ronde River, Mile 8.2
Amsinckia	retrosa Suksd.	var. howellii (Greene) Cronq.	Grande Ronde River Deer Cr, Mile 19
Antennaria	neglecta Greene		Grande Ronde River, Mile 63.8, N side
Aquilegia	formosa Fisch.	var. cordifolia	West side of Wallowa River at Mile 8
Arnica	cordifolia Hook.		West side of Wallowa River at Mile 8
Artemisia	tridentata Nutt.		
Astragalus	purshii Dougl.		Grande Ronde River, Mile 11, S side
Balsamorhiza	sagittata (Pursh) Nutt.	var. subcordata (Rydb) Sarg.	
Betula	papyrifera Marsh	var. scaber	West side of Wallowa River at Mile 8
Blepharipappus	scaber Hook.		Grande Ronde River at Deer Cr Mile 19
Brodiaea	douglasii Wats.		Grande Ronde River Mi 23.5, N side
Calochortus	elegans Pursh		West side of Wallowa River, Mile 8
Camassia	quamash (Pursh) Greene		West Bank of Wallowa River, Mile 2.2
Carex	sheldonii Mack		Island in Grande Ronde River, Mile 8.2
Castellija	hispida Benth.	var. acuta (Pennell) Ownbey	Wallowa River, Mile 5.0, E side
Celtis	reticulata Torr.		
Cicuta	douglasii (DC) Coult. & Rose		Wallowa River, Mile 3.7, E side
Cirsium	utahense Petr.		Grande Ronde R., Mile 73, N Side
Clarkia	pulchella Pursh		Grande Ronde River, Mile 11, S side
Claytonia	lanceolata Pursh	var. lanceolata	Southern Boundary of Minam State Park
Clematis	liguticifolia Nutt.		N Bank Grande Ronde River, Mile 8.0
Collinsia	parviflora Lindl.		Grande Ronde River, Mile 23.5, N side
Collomia	grandiflora Dougl.		Grande Ronde River, Mile 11, S side
Collomia	linearis Nutt.		Grande Ronde River, Mile 63.8, N side
Collomia	tinctoria Kell		Grande Ronde River, Mile 23.5, N side
Cornus	stolonifera Michx.	var. stolonifera	Grande Ronde River at Deer Cr Mile 19
Crepis	atrabarba Heller	var. atrabarba	Grande Ronde River, Mile 63.8, N side
Cryptantha	torreyana (Fray) Greene		Grande Ronde R Mi 4.7 (The Narrows)
Delphinium	nuttalianum Pritz.	var. nuttalianum	Grande Ronde River Mile 23.5, N side
Descurainia	pinnata (Walt.) Britt.	var. nelsonii (Rydb.) Peck	Grande Ronde R Mi 4.7 (The Narrows)
Dicentra	cucullaria (L.) Bernh.		Grande Ronde River Mile 23.5, N side
Dodecatheon	conjugens Greene		Grande Ronde River, Mile 17, S bank
Draba	stenoloba Ledeb.	var. nana (Shultz) C.L. Hitchc.	Grande Ronde River Mile 23.5, N side
Draba	verna L.		Grande Ronde River, Mile 23.5, N side
Erigeron	divergens T. & G.		Grande Ronde R Mi 4.7 (The Narrows)
Erigeron	philadelphicus L.		Wallowa River, Mile 5.0, E side
Eriogonum	compositum Dougl.		N bank Grande Ronde River, Mile 8.0
Eriogonum	niveum Dougl.		N bank Grande Ronde River, Mile 8.0
Eriogonum	umbellatum Torr.		N bank Grande Ronde River, Mile 8.0
Eriophyllum	lanatum (Pursh) Forbes	var. integrifolium (Hook) Smiley	Grande Ronde River, Mile 60.1
Erysimum	asperum (Nutt.) DC		Grande Ronde R Mi 4.7 (The Narrows)
Erythronium	grandiflorum Pursh	var. grandiflorum	Southern boundary of Minam State Park
Fragaria	vesca L.	var. crinata (Rydb) Hitchc.	West side of Wallowa River at Mile 8
Fritillaria	pudica (Pursh) Spreng.		Grande Ronde River, Mile 11, S side
Galium	aparine L.	var. echinospermum (Wallr.) Farw.	20' W of Wallowa R at Minam, Mile 10
Galium	multiflorum Kell		Grande Ronde River, Mile 63.8, N side
Geranium	viscosissimum F & M		Wallowa River, Mile 5.0, E side
Gilia	aggregata (Pursh) Spreng.	var. aggregata	
Heracleum	lanatum Michx.		Wallowa River, Mile 1, W bank
Heuchera	cylindrica Dougl.	var. alpina Wats.	West bank of Wallowa River @ Mile 8



Heuchera	micrantha Dougl.		Wallowa River, Mile 4.5
Hydrophyllum	capitatum	var. capitatum	
Lappula	redowskii (Horneng)Greene	var. capulata (Gray)ME Jones	N. bank Grande Ronde River, Mile 8.0
Leptodactylon	pungens (Torr.)Nutt.		GR River, Mi 58.3 (Opp Sickfoot Cr)
Lithophragma	parviflora (Hook.)Nutt.		Grande Ronde River Mi 23.5 N side
Lithospermum	ruderae Dougl.		Grande Ronde River Mi 23.5 N side
Lomatium	ambiguum(Nutt.)Coult.&Rose		Grande Ronde River Mile 23.5, N side
Lomatium	cous(Wats.)Coult.&Rose	var.multifidum(Nutt)	Grande Ronde River Mile 23.5, N side
Lomatium		Math&Const	
Lomatium	dissectum(Nutt)Math&Const.		Grande Ronde River, Mile 11, S side
Lomatium	macrocarpum(Nutt)		SR 129 Grande Ronde River, Mile 26.2
	Coult&Rose		
Lomatium	tritenatum(Pursh)Coult&Rose		Grande Ronde River, Mile 63.8 N side
Lupinus	caudatus Kell.	var. aridus (Dougl)Jeps.	Grande Ronde River, Mile 11, S side
Lupinus	lepidus Dougl.	var. sericeus	SR 129 Grande Ronde River, Mile 26.2
Lupinus	sericeus Pursh	var.subsaccatus(Suks)Hitchc.	Wallowa River, Mile 5.0, E side
Lupinus	sulphureus Dougl.	var. multiflora (Ehrh.)Celak	Wallowa River, Mile 3.7, E side
Luzula	campestris (L.)DC	var. guttatus	50 yds NW SR 129 Bridge, Mi 26.2
Mimulus	guttatus DC		West side of Wallowa River Mile 8
Mitella	trifida Grah.		Grande Ronde River, Deer Cr Mi 1
Montia	arenicola (Hend.)Howell		West bank of Wallowa River Mi 2.2
Montia	chamissoi(Ledeb)Rob.&Fern		Grande Ronde River, Deer Cr, Mile 19
Montia	perfoliata (Donn.)Howell		N bank Grande Ronde River, Mile 8.0
Opuntia	polycantha Haw		Grande Ronde River, Mi 23.5, N side
Orobanche	uniflora L.		Wallowa river, Mile 3.7, E side
Osmorhiza	depauperata Phil.		
Paeonia	brownii Dougl.		Grande Ronde River, Mile 63.8, N side
Penstemon	attenuatus Dougl.	var. attenuatus	50 yds NW SR 129 Bridge, Mile 26.2
Penstemon	deustus Dougl.	var. deustus	Grande Ronde River, Mile 23.5 N side
Penstemon	glandulosus Dougl.		Grande Ronde R, Mi 58.3(opp Sickfoot Cr)
Penstemon	venustus Dougl.		Grande Ronde River, Mile 73, N side
Phacelia	hastata Dougl.	var. leucophylla(Torr.)Cronq.	Grande Ronde River, Mile 11, S side
Phacelia	linearis (Pursh)Holz.		
Philadelphus	lewisii Pursh		West side of Wallowa River, Mile 8
Physocarpus	malvaceus (Greene)Kuntze		Grande Ronde River, Mile 23.5, N side
Plectritis	macrocera T&G		Grande Ronde River, Mile 11, S side
Polygonum	spargulariaeforme Meisn.		50 yds NW SR 129 Bridge, Mile 26.2
Potentilla	glandulosa Dougl.	var. nevadensis Wats.	Wallowa River, Mile 5.0, E side
Potentilla	gracilis Dougl.	var. brunnescens(Rydb.)C.L. Hitchc	Grande Ronde River, Mi 23.5, N side
		var. emarginata	100 yd NE SR 129 Bridge, Mile 26.2
Prunus	emarginata (Dougl)Walpers.	var. melanocarpa (Nels)Sarg.	
Prunus	virginiana L.		Grande Ronde River, Mile 23.5, N side
Purshia	tridentata (Pursh)DC		West side of Wallowa River at Mile 8
Ranunculus	glaberrimus Hook	var. glaberrimus	Along GRR
Ranunculus	uncinatus D.Don	var. uncinatus	Along GRR
Rhus	glabra L.		Grande Ronde River, Deer Cr, Mile 19
Rhus	radicans L.		Grande Ronde River, Mile 63.8, N side
Ribes	niveum Lindl.		Wallowa River, Mile 4.5
Rosa	nutkana Presl.	var. hispida Fern.	Wallowa River, Mile 1, W bank
Rubus	leucodermis Dougl.		
Rubus	parviflorus Nutt		
Sambucus	cerulea Raf.		West bank of Wallowa River, Mile 8
Saxifraga	arguta D.Don		50 yds NE SR 129 Bridge, Mile 26.2
Scutellaria	antirrhinoides Benth		Grande Ronde River, Mi 52.6, N bank
Sedum	lanceolatum Torr.	var. lanceolatum	Grande Ronde River, Mile 63.8, N side
Senecio	integerrimus Nutt.	var. exaltatus(Gray)Cronq.	
Sidalcea	oregana (Nutt.)Gray		Island in Grande Ronde River, Mile 8.2
Silene	scouleri Hook.	var. scouleri	Wallowa River, Mile 3.7, E side
Smilacina	racemosa (L.)Desf.		GRR Mile 19, 1/2 mi S Deer Cr
Smilacina	stellata (L.)Desf.		Grande Ronde River, Mile 63.8, N side
Symphoricarpos	oreophilus Gray	var. utahensis (Rydb.)A Nels	West side of Wallowa River at Mile 8



Thalictrum	occidentale Gray		N Bank Grande Ronde River, Mile 5.6
Thelypodium	lancinatum (Hook). Endl.	var. streptanthoides (Leiburg) Pays.	Grande Ronde River, Mile 23.5 N side 50 yds NW SR 129 Brdige, Mile 26.2 Grande Ronde River, mile 63.8, N side West side of Wallowa River at Mile 8 Island in Grande Ronde River, Mile 8.2 50 yds NW SR 129 Brdige, Mile 26.2 West bank of Wallowa River at Mile 8 Wallowa River, Mile 5.0, E. side
Thermopsis	montana Nutt.		
Tonella	floribunda Gray		
Tragopogon	dubis Scop.		
Trifolium	longipes Nutt.	var. reflexum Nels.	
Urtica	dioica L.		
Vicia	americana Muhl.	var. truncata (Nutt.) Benth	
Woodsia	oregana D.C.Eat.		
Wyethia	amplexicaulis Nutt.		

## D. Introduced Plants

Alyssum	alyssoides L.	N bank Grande Ronde River, Mile 8.0
Anthriscus	scandicia (Weber) Manfield	Grande Ronde River, Mile 23.5, N side
Aspergo	procumbens L.	Grande Ronde River, Mile 13, S bank
Cynoglossum	officinale L.	20' W of Wallowa R at Minam, Mile 10
Erodium	cicutarium (L.) L'Her	Grande Ronde River, Mile 23.5, N side
Lamium	amplexicaule L.	Grande Ronde R at Deer Cr., Mile 19
Lamium	purpureum L.	20' W of Wallowa R at Minam, Mile 10
Lepidium	campestre (L.) R.Br	20' W of Wallowa R at Minam, Mile 10
Lepidum	perfoliatum L.	Grande Ronde R at Deer Cr., Mile 19
Morus	alba L.	Island in Grande Ronde River, Mile 8.2
Myosotis	micrantha Pall	Grande Ronde R. Mile 23.5, N side
Thlaspi	arvense L.	20 yds NW SR 129 Bridge, Mile 26.2
Valerianella	locusta (L.) Betcke	20' W of Wallowa R at Minam, Mile 10



In the upper sections of the canyon, Douglas fir and white fir dominate, with mixed stands of ponderosa pine. Also mixed in the coniferous forests are smaller amounts of Western Larch, Engelmann spruce, alpine fir and lodgepole pine. Typical understory shrubs include ninebark, oceanspray, snowberry and spirea.

The conifer forests tend to form in scattered stands intermixed with bunch grasses, except in small side drainages with north or east exposures which often contain dense stands of mixed conifer dominated by Douglas fir and white fir, with ninebark and oceanspray understory.

The lower canyon is characterized by shrub and grassland vegetative species. Lower slope positions, 1,500 to 3,000 feet above sea level, are generally bunchgrass associations. Warm, dry slopes most often have bluebunch wheatgrass-sandberg bluegrass while more northerly aspects occasionally have bluebunch wheatgrass-Idaho fescue. These lower grassland slopes are occasionally interrupted by Douglas fir associations on sheltered north slopes.

Douglas-fir, hackberry, and occasional ponderosa pine most often dominate exposed streamsides. Because of historical overgrazing, introduced annuals dominate the flatter, more accessible areas. Introduced weed species such as knapweed continue to invade the river corridor. Cheatgrass brome presently dominates the understory of most Douglas-fir/hackberry associations.

Along streamsides and where surface water is more available, white alder associations with box elder and water birch are common. Introduced tree species often comprise portions of the streamside overstory near old homesteads. Some introduced trees, such as black locust, reproduce, thrive, and are expanding their ranges in the river corridor. Native

hardwood shrubs such as chokecherry and bittercherry are common components of the understory.

Streamside terraces may support bluebunch wheatgrass as potential vegetation. Much of it was severely disturbed and now supports cheatgrass brome. Many terraces have been tilled and planted to timothy and alfalfa hay crops which are irrigated.

## Cultural Resources

Cultural resources consist of the sites and locations of past human activities and places important to the perpetuation of social and cultural lifeways and values. Cultural resources include archaeological and historical sites, locations of traditional use and cultural activities.

American Indians have been active along the Grande Ronde and Wallowa Rivers for many years. The tribes that are now called the Umatilla and Nez Perce, were closely related in earlier times and had many shared hunting, fishing and gathering areas, one of which was the lower canyons of the Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers. For the same reasons the canyon is an excellent winter feeding area for wildlife, it also provided a winter home for the Indians.

Two major Indian trails pass through the study area. They were used by the Nez Perce and others for traveling, hunting, fishing and gathering. One route entered the Grande Ronde Canyon in the vicinity of Troy and followed upstream to Rondowa, then up the Wallowa River to Minam, and on into the Wallowa Valley. It connected the lower Snake river area near Asotin to the Wallowa Valley. Another trail from the Walla Walla area entered the canyon near Rondowa, joined the other trail and followed the Wallowa River into the Valley.



A reconnaissance of approximately 10% of selected public lands along the Grande Ronde River has resulted in the identification of archaeological sites indicative of prehistoric and historic resource use and occupation on the river spanning millennia. Ancient villages and camps, hunting and fishing stations, rockshelters, cairns, and burials provide tangible evidence of occupation. No intensive inventories have been conducted on the majority of the public lands, and most of the known sites have not been evaluated against the criteria that qualify a property for the National Register of Historic Places. However, a portion of the lower reach of the Grande Ronde River in Washington, at its confluence with the Snake River, is contained within the boundaries of the Snake River National Register District, and includes Nez Perce village and camp archaeological sites on public and private lands which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Ethnographic records clearly demonstrate that the tribes of northeast Oregon and southeast Washington occupied and jointly used the resources along the Grande Ronde River long before Euro-American settlement, and continue to use these resources to this day. Locations of culturally important resources, or areas of traditional use are also a cultural resource important to maintaining the cultural heritage and lifeways of these first people of the land. Culturally important resources include fish, wildlife, roots, berries, medicinal and other plants. There were seasonal Indian hunting and fishing camps at Rondowa and Minam, often shared by the Nez Perce, Cayuse, Walla Walla and Umatilla Tribes. The Nez Perce also had a winter camp at Troy and upstream from Heller Bar. The discovery of gold and the press of white settlement resulted in the Nez Perce War of 1877 and the removal of Indians from the canyon corridor.

By 1880, white settlement of the canyon corridor had begun in earnest. The first pioneer settlement in the area was at Grouse Flats north of Troy in the 1880's. Homesteading in this remote and rugged country lagged behind other more accessible areas. Historic sites on the Wallowa River include railroad-related structures, early fishery management locations, and homesteading. The recorded historic sites along the Grande Ronde River include several turn of the century homesteads with remains of dwellings and outbuildings, ditches, rock walls, orchards and fields.

Early homesteading activities were devoted to subsistence farming and ranching. A mild climate made the lower Grande Ronde popular for wintering livestock and for raising fruits and vegetables. During the homesteading era, small family farms and ranches were build in nearly every suitable area of the canyon corridor.

Homesteading began to wither by World War I and a process of consolidation began. The economy of the post-war period favored larger operations. Inflation and a changing marketplace forced ranchers to expand or to sell out. By the 1930's this led to a much smaller number of sheep and cattle operations.

Evidence of the rivers' cultural history can be glimpsed today in the form of historic and prehistoric places and objects on the public land. These cultural resources, both historic and prehistoric are fragile and irreplaceable. Both historic and archaeological sites and burials have been damaged by looting and vandalism, but there are as yet cultural resource properties on the river with a high degree of integrity. Other documented or potential threats to the cultural resources in the Grande Ronde River include recreation uses, livestock grazing and unauthorized land disturbing actions, such as road construction or trespass timber harvest.



The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended, the Antiquities Act of 1906, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 protect this cultural heritage on public lands for the benefit of all Americans. Illegal surface collection, excavation, and disturbance is subject to both criminal and civil penalties. In Oregon and Washington, state laws provide protection against disturbance of archaeological sites and prohibit the disturbance of Indian graves on both public and private lands.

## Recreation

Recreation opportunities in the Grande Ronde and Wallowa Rivers include boating, camping, picnicking, fishing, hunting, scenic viewing, nature study, horseback riding, hiking and swimming.

Recreation use data for the Wallowa/Grande Ronde Rivers is incomplete. Some recreational use, by activity, is available from ODFW Wallowa/Grande Ronde Trout Study in 1981, the BLM/USFS Grande Ronde River Use Survey in 1983, and the BLM Wallowa/Grande Ronde River Ranger end of year reports of 1987 -1991.

Their survey results, although not entirely consistent, show that use on the rivers is directly correlated to the weather and the water flow. Rainy, cold weather and/or droughts caused significant reductions in the amount of river use and other activities associated with boating. Refer to Tables 12 and 13.

**Table 12: Wallowa/Grande Ronde Rivers Float Season  
Visitor Use Summary 1991**

	No. of Users	No. of Launches	Avg. Group Size	User Days	Average User Length of Stay
Commercial	297	35	8.5	679	2.4
Noncommercial	2540	446	5.7	6070	2.5
Total	2837	481	5.9	6749	2.5
Administrative River Patrols <sup>1</sup>	122	26		334	

<sup>1</sup>Figures represent actual river based patrols (i.e. land based vehicle/foot patrols not included)



**Table 13: Wallowa/Grande Ronde Rivers Float Season  
Annual Visitor Use 1987 - 1991**

	1987	1988	1988	1988	1991
Commercial	315	326	425	276	297 <sup>1</sup>
Noncommercial	2002	2124	2759	2638	2540 <sup>2</sup>
Total	2317	2450	3184	2914	2837

<sup>1</sup>This figure represents the amount of use as obtained by river rangers and documented by registry forms completed by commercial guides at the river launch sites.

<sup>2</sup>This figure represents the amount of use as obtained by river rangers and documented by registry forms completed by private boaters at the river launch sites. An estimated 20% of private boater use goes unreported during the float season due to the limitations of the ranger program to be present at the various launch sites at all times. This figure does not include spring and fall fishing use or fall and winter hunting use. No estimates are available for those uses.

Other user data comes from the Oregon State parks and Recreation Division visitor use recorded for the Minam State Recreation Area. This data only shows overnight camping and day use, no breakdown of other activities is available.

Whitewater boating is the most popular recreation activity that takes place on the Wallowa/Grande Ronde, and has been for several years. The river can be floated almost any month except during late summer and winter when water flows get too low or ice builds up. Occasionally during spring run-off, flows become too high for safe boating.

Five major landmark rapids have been identified. Two on the Wallowa - House or Red Rock Rapids and Blind Falls Rapids, and three on the Grande Ronde - Sheep Creek Rapids, Martins Misery Rapids, and the Narrows. There are numerous smaller rapids and stretches of fast water, plus rock walls.

The normal float boating seasons on the Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers are from May through July or early August, and again in October and November (during

hunting season). Incidental power boat activity has been noted.

Boating access (put-in) and landing (take-out) points on the Wallowa and Grande Ronde are largely determined by motor vehicle accessibility. The most popular put-in point from which to begin a float trip is located near the town of Minam at the confluence of the Minam and the Wallowa Rivers off State Highway 82. Other popular put-in points include Mud Creek on the Grande Ronde River (one-half mile downstream from the Powwatka Bridge above Troy), the town of Troy, and Boggan's Oasis in Washington where State Highway 129 crosses the Grande Ronde. The most frequently used take-out points on the upper half of the Grande Ronde (above Troy) are Mud Creek, and the town of Troy. The most popular take-out points on the lower Grande Ronde (below Troy) are Shumaker and Heller Bar near the confluence of the Grande Ronde and Snake Rivers. By using the various put-ins and take-outs, it is possible to plan float trips lasting from one to five days or even longer.



The quality of the boating experience on the Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers is linked closely to the character of the river at the time it is floated. For the highly skilled and adventuresome boater, river flows of 10,000 cfs offer a fast and exciting experience. At the other end of the scale are family groups with small children who take five leisurely days to make the same trip when the flow is about 1,000 cfs. The contrast is one aspect of the Wallowa/Grande Ronde that makes it highly desirable as a recreational river.

Individuals and private parties are not required to secure permits to float the Grande Ronde River. However, professional outfitters must obtain permits from the Forest Service. Outfitters offer a variety of service in conjunction with the river experience. The Forest Service, Walla Walla Ranger District, has regulated commercial outfitters use on the Grande Ronde River within the National Forest since 1978. Their records show an increase from 4 outfitters in 1978 to 23 outfitters in 1991.

In 1987 the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service began administering a River Ranger Program on the Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers. The rangers monitor commercial river use, maintain campsites, gather valuable river use information, and provide visitor services and information, including stream flows and river hazards. The Rangers also provide rescue and safety assistance. The river Rangers are stationed at Minam, Oregon throughout the spring/summer use season, and patrol from Minam to Heller Bar.

The BLM conducted campsite inventories during the 1989-1991 float seasons. The inventory, completed in 1991, identified 224 camps on public land along the 90 mile Wallowa/Grande Ronde corridor. All campsites inventoried are primitive and serve also as rest stops and picnic sites. Refer to Table 14.

**Table 14: Wallowa/Grande Ronde Rivers Public Land Campsite Inventory, 1991**

	Wallowa River	Grande Ronde River		Total
		Oregon	Washington	
Number of Sites	3.0	87.0	41.0	131.0
Number of Camps	8.0	147.0	69.0	224.0
Campsite Capacity (# of People)	185.0	2585.0	1335.0	4105.0
Campsite Capacity/People (Avg.)	23.1	17.6	19.3	18.3
Campsite Capacity (# of Boats)	45.0	822.0	289.0	1156.0
Campsite Capacity/Boats (Avg.)	5.6	5.6	4.2	5.2
Average Mileage Between Sites		0.48	0.90	



The Oregon State Parks and Recreation Division has a 602 acres parcel along the west side of the Wallowa River below Minam that extends down river for about 2 miles. This camping area is accessible by road as well as by the river. The Recreation Area has 12 primitive campsites with tables, fire-rings, toilets and water available. There are also five picnic units.

Recreational fishing on the Grande Ronde/Wallowa Rivers like camping, is also closely associated with floating the rivers. Angler counts by the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife indicate that about 80 percent of angling occurs in June and July, which correlates to the greatest frequency of boaters. According to department biologists, the trout fishing improves as the river flow decreases and fish become concentrated in deeper pools where they find more cover and cooler temperatures. As boater activity decreases, due to low water, fishing activity also decreases. Trout fishing is primarily for rainbow of which there are both wild and stocked populations. The streams are managed to encourage maximum utilization of the trout fishery by recreationists. Fisherman also catch bull trout, whitefish and smallmouth bass. Steelhead fishing is done mostly in the spring and fall, but is sometimes associated with float boating as well, particularly steelhead fishing. More typically, steelhead are caught on the lower section of the Grande Ronde in Oregon and Washington.

Plans are underway to reestablish historic salmon runs. However, the sport salmon fishery on the lower Grande Ronde will only be improved slightly due to high water conditions at the time of the salmon migration. The lower river reaches, below Troy, will be improved more than in the rest of the corridor.

There are basically two types of fishing experiences on the Grande Ronde and

Wallowa Rivers. Bank fishing, where roads and trails provide access, and includes some summer trout with a majority of fall and winter steelhead fishing. Drift fishing, where a boat is used to get access to more remote areas and includes mostly trout fishing, but also has some fall and winter steelhead fishing.

The most intensive hunting activities within the corridor are for deer and elk, in October and November. Hunting pressure is much greater on the ridges and breaks, outside of the corridor, than it is inside the area. Access is the limiting factor along the rivers, with drift boats as the simplest means. Below Rondowa, in the lower canyon, there is some upland game bird and wild turkey hunting.

Other recreation activities that take place in and along the rivers include swimming, horseback riding, nature study and sightseeing. There is also hiking in the side canyons and forested areas near the river. Swimming, hiking and nature study take place in conjunction with boating, as floaters stop to rest and venture away from the river.

Horseback riding and hiking from other locations into the canyon is restricted due to lack of roads and trails in the canyon.

The scenic attractions of the lower Wallowa/Grande Ronde Rivers have been recognized for many years. The Nationwide Rivers Inventory, prepared in 1980 by the U.S. Department of the Interior, identified the Grande Ronde and the Wallowa Rivers, below Minam, as important natural free-flowing rivers. They described them as possessing "High scenic quality, excellent examples of gooseneck meanders, and as having high recreational boating, and important fishery resources." The Goosenecks National Natural Landmark is an excellent example of lateral entrenched meanders on the Grande Ronde River. The landmark designation includes



public and private land at two locations in the lower river corridor: at the Oregon/Washington border and near the Narrows at the mouth of Joseph Creek.

The canyon slopes have many steep rock terraces, sheer basalt cliffs and overhanging bluffs. The multiple layers of the Columbia River Basalt that are exposed in the canyon walls, show a variety of shape and color that provide the viewer a continuous, awe-inspiring experience as the view changes from one meander to another. A wide variety of forests, trees, shrubs and grasslands are visible and contribute substantially to the scenic quality of the corridor.

Scenic quality is enhanced considerably by water and its ever changing nature as it tumbles and swirls over rocks, around islands, cutting steep banks on one turn and depositing the sand and silt on a bar at the next turn. The diversity of a river experience is improved greatly by the frequent sightings of wildlife; elk, deer, bear, bighorn sheep, otter, eagles and a variety of birds and other animals.

## Range

Nez Perce Indians grazed horses in the Canyon as early as the 1730's. In the late 1800's white settlers began domestic livestock grazing and in these early years, some of the range was grazed continually. Some areas are poor and weedy despite light livestock or elk grazing. Many of the poor sites are in riparian areas on the river bank. The key to plant health in grazing alternatives is the timely rotation (or movement) of the grazing animals. Mere absence of grazing can be detrimental to some ranges by allowing annual grasses to out-compete perennials, or perennials to out-compete young trees, or by sometimes allowing native Idaho fescues or bluebunch wheat-grasses to become over-ripe or "wolfey". Properly managed grazing systems can be used to protect and

enhance some of the ORV's in the corridor. Individual allotment management plans should be implemented with emphasis on riparian areas.

During the early 1900's, grazing occurred all season long as weather, water and forage availability permitted. Sheep and cattle allotments peaked in 1920. In the early sixties grazing systems were initiated, protecting forage plants during critical periods of growth and nutrient storage. This has greatly increased the amount and vitality of rangeland forage. A cattle grazing permit existed, at one time, on the portion of public land from Bear Creek to Elbow Creek in the Wild portion of the river corridor. This permit was curtailed in the 1950's and the area is now considered elk winter range. The only remaining domestic grazing in this portion of the river designated as Wild is solely supported by private land, with the exception of some scattered BLM parcels. The general pattern of use for grazing on this land has been in April-May and/or November-December, depending on the weather and forage conditions.

A generally shorter winter season is often experienced in the lower reaches of the river. Particularly during mild winters, the range can often accommodate a winter graze. During various stages of the year, elk, deer, bighorn sheep, and cattle both coexist and complement the range use. Wildlife often prefer the more palatable regrowth occurring after initial forage utilization by cattle. Production agriculture on the breaks of the corridor provides an important additional source of year round forage for wildlife.

Livestock operations are an important part of the local and regional economy.



## Geology

The Wallowa/Grande Ronde Rivers are within the Blue Mountain physiographic province of northeast Oregon and southeast Washington.

The Blue Mountain province is made up of a series of seven mountain ranges that were lifted and folded above the Columbia Plateau. Most of the rivers in this province, including the Wallowa and Grande Ronde, tend to follow fault lines that cracked and broke the uplifted layers. Geologically, the study area dates back to the late Tertiary period.

At one time great fissures opened up in western Idaho and eastern Oregon. Out of these poured hot molten lava that flowed westward as far as the Pacific Ocean. This happened repeatedly and formed the Great Columbia River Basalt Plateau. In some places this plateau is nearly a mile thick. Following the layering of the Columbia basalt the area was uplifted. Since that time the Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers have been carving their way down through these layers of Columbia basalt. Because of the many layers of basalt, the canyon walls typically look stair-stepped with many of the steps filled in with talus (loose rock) from layers above.

It is through this cutting erosion process that the river has cut through 1,000 to 2,500 feet, and excavated over seven cubic miles of rock out of the main canyon to shape it to its present form. Beds of alluvial gravel and cobble rock can be seen on the slopes of the canyon above the river. These show the location of the river channel at times in the past. Rocks seen in these deposits, and in gravel bars along the river today, have typically come from formations in the Wallowa Mountains, such as the Clover Creek Greenstone formation above Wallowa Lake.

Within the upper reaches of the corridor, there are several bends where the river has undercut a basalt layer, leaving an overhang just above the river that adds to the geologic interest and scenic beauty of the canyon.

## Forestry

Forest stands in the river corridor from Minam to Troy, Oregon consist primarily of old growth/mature mixed conifers. North slopes tend to have more Douglas and Grand fir in the overstories while south slopes tend toward ponderosa pine. Both aspects have dense understories of Douglas and Grand fir. Historically these stands carried a much lower level of stocking in the overstories and that ran much heavier to ponderosa pine and the understories consisted mostly of a shrub/forb/grass mix. The forest was uneven in age structure, more open, and heavy to fire climax tree species.

Past removal of fire tolerant species and the exclusion of fire from its natural role in the forest environment has given us overstocked stands of true climax tree species, and has given us a fuel situation with explosive potential. The three fire events that have occurred recently in the corridor, demonstrate in a very clear fashion the devastating nature of wildfire with these fuel loadings.

All the insect and disease agents that are endemic to the region are found in this portion of the corridor. However, due to the exclusion of fire from the forest environment coupled with over six years of drought conditions; spruce budworm, dwarf mistletoe, and various root rots have gone from endemic to epidemic. Forest stands that were already stressed due to overstocking now have these agents to deal with which then compounds a fuel situation that is already catastrophic.



From Troy, the remainder of the corridor, historically, consisted primarily of old growth/mature ponderosa pine that has succumbed for the most part to bark beetles and a scale insect. These stands will have to be planted since natural regeneration is almost nonexistent. Domestic livestock played a major role in the prevention of natural regeneration and so must be controlled when these stands are reestablished by planting.

All of the private forest land and much of the public forest land within the corridor has a long history of timber harvest. In addition to providing economic benefits, forestry practices, including harvest, can be viable tools used to restore stands to more stable conditions. All of the public land within the designated Wild section and some of the public land outside of that section is excluded from the allowable cut base. Thus on those lands, harvest may only occur for salvage or to accomplish some non-timber goal such as improving wildlife habitat.

## Fire

For centuries, wildfire has helped to shape and perpetuate the flora and fauna of the canyon corridor. Recently, however, man has been successful in reducing the annual number of fires and acres burned. This exclusion of fire from the ecosystem is causing subtle changes in its biology. Continued exclusion of fire will result in a heavy fuel buildup in some areas, increasing the risk of catastrophic burns of a large and costly nature. These man induced influences to the ecosystem have produced significant biological changes.

Fire management is the protection of resources from fire and the use of fire to help meet land management objectives. Fire protection includes prevention, pre-suppression, suppression and fuel management. The use of fire involves using prescription to protect, maintain or

enhance resources. A prescription fire is one that is burning under a predetermined set of fuel, weather, and topographic conditions. It is permitted to burn under surveillance to produce predetermined, beneficial effects.

The current fire management policy is to provide well planned and executed fire protection, and fire use programs. Activities must be cost effective, responsive to land and resource management goals and objectives. Fire management has changed from simply putting all fires out as fast as possible to that of evaluating the potential benefits and consequences of each fire. Fires that complement land management goals and objectives may be permitted to burn in areas with approved fire management plans.

## Mineral/Mining

There is no evidence of locatable mineral in the canyon, nor is there history of mining activity other than early panning for gold.

This portion of the Wallowa/Grande Ronde River is within a newly discovered lignite coal field in northern Wallowa County, extending into the Asotin County Washington. This structural depression, known as the Troy Basin, covers hundreds of square miles. Lignite seams, averaging 27 feet thick, are not visible in the canyon itself, but underlay the entire area. However, extensive core drilling in the area immediately to the east of the corridor has shown these seams to be discontinuous, extremely variable in depth and thickness, of very low heat value, and often overlain with thick layers of basalt. This portion of the river also lies within an area considered prospectively valuable for oil and gas exploration. There are several gas and oil lease applications, covering 3,000 acres within this area, which have been filed with the Bureau of Land Management.



## Communities/Utilities/ Transportation

The rural communities of Minam and Troy in Oregon, and Boggan's and Heller Bar in Washington adjoin the Wallowa/Grande Ronde Rivers.

The rural community of Minam is at the beginning of the corridor and includes a motel, general store, old school house (used as a residence), some livestock sheds and corrals, a power substation and powerlines, railroad, public paved highway, bridge, and other sections of road.

From Minam, the next two miles downstream on the left bank is the Minam State Recreation Area, a public recreation area with camping, picnicking and rest-rooms.

The Union Pacific railroad line from Elgin to the Wallowa Valley parallels the river on the right bank, the full length of the Wallowa section. There are several old logging roads northeast in the corridor along with a powerline right-of-way. There is an abandoned ranch house with a corral and two cabins used in conjunction with ranching or logging operations, plus a railroad bridge near the south end at Rondowa.

From Rondowa to Wildcat Creek is largely public land in federal and state ownership. The first 1½ miles, however, is private and includes logging roads. Seventeen of the twenty-eight miles of river in this section are in the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests and are used exclusively for recreation and scenic viewing. The National Forest segment has never been roaded or logged, although it has had a history of large fires over the years, the last one being the Ward Canyon fire in 1989

which burned several thousand acres on both sides of the canyon.

Below the National Forest boundary the canyon opens up slightly, and is owned and managed by private entities, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Evidence of existing and former homesteads are detectable but not readily visible as far as Wildcat Creek. Much of the area is grazed by livestock and there is a limited amount of timber harvest and forest reproduction.

The ODFW manages several miles of the left bank, the Lower Wenaha Wildlife Management Area, for large game animals; primarily elk and deer. Private lands in this section are used mostly for cattle ranching. The BLM leases some land for grazing, but there is no timber harvest on public land within the canyon. BLM land on the north side of the river, contiguous with the lower Wenaha Wildlife Management Area, is managed by ODFW for wildlife purposes.

Land use in the lower river section is mostly agricultural including farmstead, grazing and hay production. BLM land is leased for grazing and agriculture, and ODFW land is part of the Lower Wenaha Wildlife Management Area. A number of ranches use water from the Grande Ronde to irrigate hay fields and water livestock.

About one mile below the Powwatka Bridge, astraddle a channel along the left bank, is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service experimental facility. It was used to experiment with directing migrating fish away from hydroelectric spillways and turbines. The facility has not been used since 1982.

The rural community of Troy in this section has several residences, general store, service station, tavern and motel



occupying the townsite on the left bank, plus a school and residences on the right bank.

The river in this segment is crossed by two bridges and several utility lines, and is paralleled by a road for 14 miles to Boggan's Oasis. There are several ranch operations with associated facilities along this entire segment.

Below Boggan's Oasis and State Highway 129, the river corridor is accessed by county and private roads near Shumaker's Grade. No other access exists until the county road near the Narrows, approximately four miles upstream from Heller Bar. From the county bridge at the head of Joseph Canyon to the Snake River, the road parallels the Grande Ronde and supports a number of residences. This segment also contains utility lines, both above and below ground.



## CHAPTER 3 - Alternatives and Environmental Impacts



There are standard design procedures and management directions common to all public land activities. They include:

Standard design features normally incorporated as needed into specific surface disturbing activity plans and authorizations include: scalping, saving, and resspreading available top soil; regrading and resloping to natural contours; reestablish appropriate stabilizing vegetation; and water erosion and runoff prevention measures, such as waterbars, benches, and drainage systems. Management activities in riparian areas will be designed to maintain or improve riparian values; roads and corridors will avoid riparian zones to the extent practical.

Consult with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Washington Department of Fisheries (WDF), and Washington Department of Wildlife (WDW) prior to undertaking major construction, and/or surface disturbing activities in high value wildlife and fisheries habitat. In crucial wildlife habitats major construction and maintenance work will be scheduled to avoid or minimize disturbance to wildlife. Areas disturbed during project construction will be reseeded with a mixture of grasses, forbs and shrubs to meet site specific needs or habitat requirements. All new fences will be built to standard Bureau wildlife specifications.

Avoid management actions which may result in disturbance and adverse impacts on crucial habitat for threatened, endangered, candidate, federal or state listed, and sensitive species. Conduct inventories to determine if any of those species exist on proposed areas of development.

Monitoring studies will be established by all resource activities within the corridor to determine impacts, trend, and serve as indicators for management prescriptions.

Information and education programs will be developed to assist resource users in the safe, sanitary, and low impact use of the canyon corridor.

The agencies will continue to inventory lands for historical and archaeological resources and would evaluate the significance of known historical and archaeological sites. The BLM will consult with both the Nez Perce and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to identify and protect those locations which are considered important for the maintenance of cultural lifeways through traditional resource uses. Archaeological resource sites threatened by human-caused or natural sources of erosion or deterioration will be protected by restricting or excluding uses, fencing, signing, or stabilization. If stabilization or physical protection measures are not feasible or effective, various levels of mitigation through information recovery may be implemented.

A plan for monitoring will be developed and implemented to ensure adequate protection of historical and archaeological sites. Monitoring will include field checking and photo-documentation of sites to determine condition and trend, causes of disturbance, and corrective measures required. To discourage vandalism and unauthorized uses, patrol and surveillance of significant sites will be conducted on a regular basis. Monitoring and surveillance would be employed to guard against irreparable human-caused damage or natural deterioration leading to loss of historical and archaeological integrity. Monitoring and surveillance priorities will be established based upon resource significance and vulnerability to damage. Implementation of a protection and interpretive signing program will be guided and restricted as necessary to protect and secure site locations from unauthorized or illegal activities.



In accordance with federal laws and regulations, prior to the implementation of any surface-disturbing project or plan, inventories and evaluation will be undertaken to identify, protect, preserve, and evaluate the importance of cultural resources which may be affected by the proposed project. All maintenance, construction, and resource use activities are considered to be projects requiring inventories, evaluations, and special stipulations to protect cultural values, in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and other laws. Federal cost share and grant projects also require compliance with cultural resource laws. Cultural resource sites are evaluated against criteria for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The BLM will consult with the Nez Perce and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla in the early planning stages of proposed surface disturbing activities. Decisions about the treatment and evaluation of cultural resource sites, including interpretation, will be made in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office of Oregon and Washington, and the Nez Perce and Umatilla Tribes, as appropriate and provided for in laws and regulation.

In most cases, sites located within a project area will be avoided by imposing project stipulations and limitations, project redesign or relocation. Where relocation is not possible, the project may be canceled or partial mitigation of the project effects through intensive documentation may be necessary. Certain cultural resources, such as locations of social and cultural importance for maintaining traditional lifeways, are not inherently mitigated through documentation and would be protected through cooperative programs for consultation and coordination with the Tribes. The BLM would ensure that information gained from inventories for cultural resources would be systematically recorded and would be shared with the Tribes, and that information on the location

of cultural resources would be secure and confidential as necessary to protect the resource from unauthorized use or damage.

## Wallowa River Segment

The Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988 designated ten miles of the lower Wallowa River, from its confluence with the Minam River to its confluence with the Grande Ronde River, for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system. Congress assigned the study of this river segment to the Secretary of Agriculture. For the purposes of the study, the Forest Service, as the lead agency, has established a study area generally 1/4 mile wide on either side of the river. The map included in Appendices shows the study area.

The lower Wallowa River from its confluence with the Minam River, to its confluence with the Grande Ronde River is designated a State Scenic Waterway. Oregon State Parks, is responsible for administering the Oregon State Scenic Waterway Program and participated in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Study of the lower Wallowa River.

For the purposes of this river management plan, the Wallowa segment is included with the Grande Ronde to produce one management plan for the 90 mile corridor and is separate from the eligibility/suitability study being conducted by the Forest Service.



## Wallowa River Segment - Alt. A (Preferred Alternative)

### Range of Alternatives

#### ALTERNATIVE A (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)

Protect and enhance those values on the Wallowa River that are being considered under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act with emphasis on private land owner interests.

#### Forestry

- Optimize wood fiber outputs on all available moderate or highly capable land.
- Utilize harvest prescriptions which have low visual impact, yet favor fire tolerant species, by emulation the mosaic character of the natural landscape.
- Attempt to always keep some large old trees in the stands.
- Reduce current stand densities as needed to maintain stand vigor.
- Road improvement and construction will be required including some presently unroaded areas. Roads will be closed as necessary to protect wildlife, soils, or watershed values.
- Screen new roads from view of the river, as much as possible, utilizing vegetation and topography.

#### Fish and Wildlife

- Minimize new road development on public land within the river corridor.

- Minimize human impacts in wildlife winter ranges through public awareness programs.
- Provide snags within 1/4 mile each side of the river to accommodate winter roosting needs of bald eagles.
- Maintain cooperative agreements with ODFW.
- Maintain and/or improve fisheries habitat through instream and riparian enhancement projects.

#### Social and Economic Considerations

- Insure management actions maintain existing rural lifestyles of corridor residents.
- Maintain existing and prescribed levels of resource utilizations in the agricultural and forest industries.
- Maintain physical resources to insure the continuation of recreation based industries.
- Assist Union and Wallowa Counties in broadening the economic bases of various communities through resource cost share and grant programs.
- Develop public awareness programs for multi resource users of the Wallowa River Corridor.

#### Recreation

- Construct visitor contact station and administrative facilities at Minam to provide for a focal point for management and serve as



## Wallowa River Segment Alt. A (Preferred Alternative)

the principal access point for the 90 mile corridor.

- Improve river staging areas at Minam to accommodate river users.
- Wallowa River open to both motorized and non-motorized watercraft with certain restriction on timing, size, and number of trips, for motorized craft.
- Voluntary river registration until monitoring determines unacceptable resource impacts.
- Develop monitoring studies to determine the social, physical, and environmental carrying capacities of the river corridor.
- Implement visitor use and party size limitations when monitoring begins to indicate a trend toward unacceptable resource damage.
- Continue commercial permit program for river outfitters that requires one permit for all administrative jurisdictions.
- Develop intensive visitor awareness and user interrelationships.
- Mandatory use of fire pans and pack out of human waste.

### Scenery

- Provide stipulations for the development of projects, including resource commodity uses, to insure that management activities are subordinate to the characteristics landscape and

do not dominate the immediate viewshed.

During recreation construction projects, incorporate visual design requirements that are compatible with the corridors characteristic landscape.

### Cultural Resources

- Implement a systematic program for inventory and evaluation of cultural resources, including traditional use areas and cultural values, on public land in the river corridor.
- Conduct periodic patrols for all cultural resources, and install cultural resource protection signs to discourage vandalism of cultural properties.
- Conduct bi-monthly patrols of sensitive cultural resources located in high recreation use areas.
- Develop an information and education program, including signs and brochures, for the protection and interpretation of cultural resources.
- Conduct annual monitoring of sensitive cultural resources located in high recreation use areas.

### Livestock

- On public land, manage livestock grazing through season of use, and utilization levels.
- Encourage cooperative projects on all riparian rehabilitation projects. If



**Wallowa River Segment  
Alt. A (Preferred Alternative)/Alt. B**

ground manipulation techniques are used, restrict livestock for three to five growing seasons.

- Manage reforestation plantations to minimize damage from livestock.
- Continue livestock grazing on public land within the canyon under authorized permits.
- Work with Section 15 permit holders on an individual basis. Initiate trespass actions on unauthorized use of corridor by livestock.
- Encourage cooperative projects that divert livestock from the riparian zone.
- Establish an information network where livestock owners are informed of stray animals.

**Transportation**

- Allow for the continued maintenance of transportation.
- Maintenance activities will meet visual and cultural resource requirements.
- New transportation requirements on private land will meet Oregon State Scenic Waterway guidelines within the corridor.

**Hydro-power (Water Resources)**

- Maintain the free flowing character of the Wallowa River.
- Continue utilization of river for watering domestic livestock.
- Develop a water monitoring program to assist agencies

and private land owners in water quality and quantity requirements for fish and wildlife, domestic water rights, and recreation uses.

Develop stipulations for resource activities on public land within the corridor watershed that would have the potential to degrade water quality or quantity of the Wallowa River.

**Landowner Rights**

- Continue existing uses of private land within the corridor as directed by Union County and Wallowa County zoning and the Oregon State Scenic Waterway Administrative Rules (refer to Chapter 4).
- Agencies will not actively pursue land acquisitions. Private party initiated easement/acquisition proposals will be processed on a priority basis.

**Biodiversity**

- Management actions within the corridor will maintain or enhance flora, fauna, and physical elements most similar to the present baseline condition.

**ALTERNATIVE B**

Protect and enhance those values on the Wallowa River that are being considered under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act with emphasis on recreation opportunities.



## Wallowa River Segment Alt. B

### Forestry

- Manage timber to optimize wildlife habitat, recreation and visual values on all available moderate or highly capable commercial forest lands.
- Emphasize diversity of habitat. Maximize forage cover ratios on selected areas to favor elk.
- Little additional road construction or improvement will be required. Roads will be closed as necessary to protect wildlife, soils or water quality.

### Fish and Wildlife

- New road development on public land within the river corridor will meet wildlife habitat requirements.
- Minimize human impacts in wildlife winter ranges through public awareness programs.
- Provide snags within 1/2 mile each side of the river to accommodate winter roosting needs of bald eagles.
- Maintain cooperative agreements with ODFW and initial wildlife agreements with private land owners.
- Maintain and/or improve fisheries habitat through instream and riparian enhancement projects.

### Social and Economic Considerations

- Management actions will adversely affect the existing

rural lifestyles of corridor residents through the elimination of domestic livestock grazing within the river corridor on public land.

- Manage existing and prescribed levels of resource utilization in the agricultural and forest industries to enhance river recreation opportunities.
- Maintain physical resources to insure the continuation and expansion of recreation based industries.
- Assist Union and Wallowa Counties in broadening the economic base of various communities through recreation cost share and grant programs.
- Develop public awareness programs for recreational users of the Wallowa River corridor.

### Recreation

- Construct a facility at Minam to serve as a visitor contact station, river interpretive center, and agency administrative headquarters to provide for a focal point for management and serve as the principal access point for the 90 mile corridor.
- Improve the river staging areas at Minam to accommodate additional vehicle parking, boat access, and rest-room facilities.
- Obtain access easements from private landowners in the Rondwa vicinity for vehicle access to the



confluence of the Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers.

- Mandatory river registration for all recreational users of the Wallowa River.
- Develop monitoring studies to determine the social, physical, and environmental carrying capacities of the river corridor.
- Implement visitor use and party size limitations when monitoring indicates a trend toward unacceptable resource damage.
- Continue the commercial permit program for river outfitters that requires one permit for all administrative jurisdictions.
- Develop intensive visitor awareness program for river resources and user inter-relationships.
- Mandatory use of fire pans and pack out of human waste.
- Wallowa River open to both motorized and non-motorized water craft.

#### Scenery

- Stipulate development projects, including resource commodity uses, to insure that management activities provide for the protection of the characteristic landscape and do not dominate the immediate viewshed.
- During recreation construction projects, incorporate visual design criteria that are compatible with the corridor's characteristic landscape.

#### Cultural Resources

- Implement a systematic program for inventory and evaluation of cultural resources, including traditional use areas and cultural values, on public land in the river corridor.
- Conduct weekly patrols throughout the use season, and install protection signs to discourage vandalism of cultural properties.
- Develop an intensive public awareness, information and education program, including signs and brochures for the protection and interpretation of cultural resources.
- Develop agreements between federal agencies, tribes, and private landowners to protect significant cultural resource properties.
- Conduct annual monitoring of all cultural resources on public land.

#### Livestock

- Eliminate domestic livestock grazing within the river corridor on public land.
- Initiate trespass actions on unauthorized use of public land by livestock within the corridor.

#### Transportation

- Allow for the continued maintenance of transportation systems including state, county, and



## Wallowa River Segment Alt. B/C

private roads, and railroad track and bed.

- No new roads will be built on public land.
- Upgrade the road from Palmer Junction to Rondowa to gravel, all weather road standards.
- Maintenance activities will meet visual and cultural resource requirements.
- New transportation requirements on private land will meet Oregon State Scenic waterway guidelines within the corridor.

### Hydro-power (Water Resources)

- Maintain the free flowing character of the Wallowa River.
- Continue utilization of river for water domestic livestock on private land.
- Develop a water monitoring program to assist agencies and private land owners in water quality to assist agencies and private land owners in water quality and quantity requirements for fish and wildlife, recreation uses, and domestic water rights.
- Stipulate resource activities on public land within the corridor watershed that would have the potential to degrade water quality or quantity of the Wallowa River.

### Landowner Rights

- Continue existing uses of private land within the corridor as directed by Union

and Wallowa County zoning and the Oregon State Scenic Waterway Administrative Rules (refer to Chapter 4).

Actively pursue land acquisition programs with private landowners within the river corridor.

### Biodiversity

- Management actions within the corridor will maintain or enhance flora, fauna, and physical elements most similar to the present baseline condition.

## ALTERNATIVE C

Protect and enhance those values on the Wallowa River that are being considered under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act with emphasis on naturalness (Wildlife/Fisheries/Vegetation).

### Forestry

- Manage timber solely to optimize wildlife habitat, recreation and scenic values.
- Prescribe timber harvesting to meet wildlife, recreation and visual objectives.
- Little additional road construction or improvement will be needed.
- All commercial forest land is unregulated. No potential yield is calculated.

### Fish and Wildlife

- No new road development on public land within the river corridor.



## Wallowa River Segment Alt. C

- Minimize human impacts in wildlife ranges through public awareness programs, seasonal closures, and road closures.
- Provide snags within the river sub-basin to accommodate the habitat needs of bald eagles.
- Maintain cooperative agreements with ODFW and initiate wildlife agreements with private land owners.
- Maintain and/or improve fisheries habitat through instream and riparian enhancement projects.

### Social and Economic Considerations

- Management actions are to enhance naturalness and may adversely affect the existing rural lifestyles of corridor residents.
- Manage existing and prescribed levels of resource utilization in the agricultural and forest industries to enhance natural values.
- Develop public awareness programs for users of the Wallowa River corridor to promote natural value preservation.

### Recreation

- Construct a facility at Minam to serve as a visitor contact station, river interpretive center, and agency administrative headquarters.
- Mandatory river registration for all users of the Wallowa River.

- Develop monitoring studies to determine the social, physical, and environmental carrying capacities of the river corridor.
- Implement visitor use and party size limitations when monitoring indicates a trend toward unacceptable resource damage.
- Continue the commercial permit program for river outfitters that requires one permit for all administrative jurisdictions.
- Develop intensive visitor awareness programs for river resources and user interrelationships.
- Mandatory use of fire pans and pack out of human waste.
- Wallow River closed year long to motorized water craft.

### Scenery

- Stipulate development projects, including resource commodity uses, to insure that management activities are subordinate to the characteristic landscape and do not dominate the immediate viewshed.
- During recreation construction projects, incorporate visual design criteria that are compatible with the corridor's characteristic landscape.

### Cultural Resources

- Implement a systematic program for inventory and



## Wallowa River Segment Alt. C

evaluation of cultural resources, including traditional use areas and cultural values, on public land in the river corridor.

- Conduct weekly patrols throughout the use season, and install protection signs to

discourage vandalism of cultural properties.

- Develop an intensive public awareness, information and education program, including signs and brochures for the protection and interpretation of cultural

resources.

- Develop agreements between federal agencies, tribes, and private landowners to protect significant cultural resource properties.
- Conduct annual monitoring of all cultural resources on public land.

### Livestock

- Eliminate domestic livestock grazing within the river corridor on public land.
- Initiate trespass actions on unauthorized use of public land by livestock within the corridor.

### Transportation

- Continue maintenance of transportation systems including state, county, and private roads, and railroad track and bed.
- No new roads will be built on public land.

- Upgrade the road from Palmer Junction to Rondowa to gravel, all weather road standards.

- Maintenance activities will meet visual and cultural resource requirements.

- New transportation requirements on private land will meet Oregon State Scenic Waterway guidelines within the corridor.

### Hydro-power (Water Resources)

- Maintain the free flowing character of the Wallowa River.

- Continue utilization of river for water domestic livestock on private land.

- Develop a water monitoring program to assist agencies and private land owners in water quality to assist agencies and private land owners in water quality and quantity requirements for fish and wildlife, recreation uses, and domestic water rights.

- Consider resource activities on public land within the corridor watershed that would have the potential to degrade or enhance water quality and/or quantity of the river.

### Landowner Rights

- Continue existing uses of private land within the corridor as directed by Union and Wallowa County zoning and the Oregon State Scenic Waterway Administrative Rules (refer to Chapter 4).



## Wallowa River Segment Alt. C/D

- Actively pursue private land acquisitions (including condemnation actions) to preserve the naturalness of the corridor.

### Biodiversity

- Management actions within the corridor will maintain or enhance flora (noxious weeds), fauna, and physical elements most similar to the present baseline condition.

### ALTERNATIVE D

No action plus meeting the minimum legislative intent of a Study River classification under the wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Oregon State Scenic Waterway designation.

### Forestry

- Optimize wood fiber outputs on all available moderate or highly capable land.
- Utilize harvest prescriptions which have low visual impact, yet favor fire tolerant species, by emulating the mosaic character of the natural landscape.
- Attempt to always keep some large old trees in the stands.
- Reduce current stand densities as needed to maintain stand vigor.
- Special cuts as justified to meet resource objectives other than commercial timber harvest.
- Road improvement and construction will be required

including some presently unroaded areas.

- Screen new roads from view from the river utilizing vegetation and topography.

### Fish and Wildlife

- Minimize road development on public land within the river corridor.
- Minimize impacts to wildlife habitats and populations through public awareness programs.
- Provide snags within 1/4 mile of the river to provide for bald eagle habitat needs.
- Maintain cooperative agreements with ODFW.

### Social and Economic Considerations

- Management actions will not adversely affect the existing rural lifestyles of the corridor residents.
- Manage existing and prescribed levels of resource utilization in the agricultural and forest industries to meet current demand within the parameters of the Acts.

### Recreation

- Maintain the existing river administrative facility (mobile home) at Minam to serve as a visitor contact station and river ranger quarters.
- Voluntary river registration for all recreation users of the Wallowa River.
- Continue the commercial permit program for river outfitters that requires one



## Wallowa River Segment Alt. D

permit for all administrative jurisdictions.

- Voluntary use of fire pans and pack out of human waste.
- The Wallowa River will continue to be open to motorized and non-motorized water craft.

### Scenery

- Stipulate development projects, including resource commodity uses, to ensure that activities are coordinated with visual requirements.

### Cultural Resources

- Inventory and evaluate cultural resources in response to project specific surface-disturbing proposals on public land within the corridor.
- Conduct periodic patrols and install protection signs to discourage vandalism of cultural resources.
- Limited monitoring of cultural resources would occur.

### Livestock

- On public land, restrict livestock grazing through season of use, utilization levels, and livestock numbers.
- Continue livestock grazing on public land within the canyon under authorized permits.
- Establish an information network where owners are informed of stray livestock.

Initiate trespass actions on unauthorized use of corridor by livestock.

### Transportation

- Continue maintenance of transportation system, including state, county and private roads, and railroad track and bed.

### Hydro-power (Water Resources)

- Maintain the free flowing character of the Wallowa River.
- Continue utilization of river water for domestic livestock.

### Landowner Rights

- Continue existing uses of private land within the corridor as directed by Union and Wallowa zoning and the Oregon State Scenic Waterway Administrative Rules (refer to Chapter 4).
- Agencies will not actively pursue land acquisitions or easements.

### Biodiversity

- Management actions within the corridor will maintain flora, fauna, and physical elements most similar to the present baseline condition.



## Impacts of Alternatives

### Forestry

#### Alternative A (Preferred Alternative):

Under this alternative long term timber production would be reduced below the long term biological potential by less than 5%. These reductions would result from efforts to maintain visual quality and from extending the time to reduce stocking levels. Since long term timber production can be maintained while carrying 60% of current inventory, this reduction may not be apparent until the third decade.

Alternative B: The impacts resulting from this alternative would minimize the forest industry potential for production. By managing timber to optimize wildlife, recreation, and visual values, the existing timber harvest within the corridor will be seriously decreased. Production would be reduced below biological potential by 27% (35mbf/year) immediately. With little road construction or improvement and additional restrictions for habitat diversity, the viability of timber management within the corridor will be further threatened. The resulting damage to the livelihoods of harvesters will be serious.

Alternative C: The impacts of this alternative would be similar to alternative B, except that they would be more detrimental. By managing timber harvest solely to optimize wildlife, recreation, and scenic qualities, the presence of necessary harvest within the corridor will be minimal.

Alternative D: The impact of this alternative would be virtually indistinguishable from alternative A.

### Fish And Wildlife

All four of the alternatives would have a positive effect on wildlife to a certain degree.

Alternative A (Preferred Alternative): The impacts of this alternative would be beneficial to the wildlife values by allowing for improvements to fish habitat and creating a snag zone (1/4 mile) along the corridor for bald eagle habitat. Human impacts would be reduced through public awareness along with minimizing new road development. Cooperative agreements between Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), land managing agencies and initial wildlife agreements with the private landowners will also aid in reducing possible human impacts.

Alternative B: This alternative would be the most beneficial action for fish and wildlife resources. In alternative B there would be limited new road construction stipulated to protect wildlife habitat and it allows for the largest snag zone (1/2 mile).

Alternative C: This alternative differs from alternative B only in that human impacts would be reduced even further by seasonal closures and road closures and that the snag zone is expanded to the entire sub-basin of the corridor. Alternative C maintains the previous actions of the first two alternatives and varies only slightly with new road development being possible under this option. The impact from this alternative would be minimal but nevertheless noticeable.

Alternative D: This alternative would have the least positive influence on fish and wildlife. Although the differences between it and the other alternatives seems slight, this alternative does not allow for



## Wallowa River Segment Impacts of Alternatives

enhanced fish habitat improvement projects or cooperative wildlife agreements between land owners and managers.

### Social and Economic Considerations

Alternative A (Preferred Alternative): The impacts from this alternative would be minor while creating the most benefits to the corridor. This alternative would have the least impact on the existing lifestyles of corridor residents while maintaining agricultural and forest industries. It would also improve the recreation industry by maintaining the physical resource and improving public awareness. This alternative also includes provisions to assist Union and Wallowa counties in broadening their economic base through economic cost share and grant programs.

Alternative B: This alternative is similar to alternative A except that rural lifestyles, although not adversely effected, might show some minor changes from the lifestyles that had existed previously.

Alternative C: This alternative would have the least desirable impacts to the socio-economic considerations of the corridor. Under this alternative of trying to manage for natural values, there is a strong possibility for adverse effects to occur to the corridors rural lifestyles.

Alternative D: This alternative would not alter existing resource utilization within the forest and agriculture industries, or among the lifestyles of the residents along the corridor.

### Recreation

Alternative A (Preferred Alternative): Under this alternative, the impacts to the existing recreational use of the river would be largely enhanced. The improvements to

the launching areas including better staging areas, improved visitor contact station/administration office at Minam would allow a more universal use and knowledge of the corridor. Improvements along this line would allow easy access to both non-motorized and motorized watercraft. The developments along the corridor including party size limitations, mandatory use of fire pans, and removal of human waste would improve the health and cleanliness of the corridor for both boaters as well as those who camp along the shore. Volunteer river registration and commercial use programs would remain as they presently exist with the addition of motorized watercraft.

Alternative B: This alternative is very similar to alternative A in most of the developments and improvements. This alternative, however, provides for the obtaining of vehicle access to the corridor from the private landowners. This when combined with a mandatory registration policy would greatly increase specific river section availability and the ability of emergency and rescue personnel to know the whereabouts and locate river users.

Alternative C: The impacts of alternative C would relate closely to alternative B except that no access permits would be obtained from the land owners and that no motorized craft be allowed on this section of river.

Alternative D: This option would have the greatest negative impact on river recreation by allowing conditions to remain as they currently exist. These conditions would allow for the indiscriminate use and accumulation of surface fire rings along with the build-up of unsanitary human waste disposal sites.



## Scenery

Alternatives A,B and C are exactly alike and state that all developmental projects, uses, and management activities remain subordinate to the visual quality and characteristics of the present landscape. Alternative D differs in that it does not specifically state that recreational construction and management activities must conform to and be subordinate to the natural characteristics of the corridor.

## Cultural Resources

Alternative A (Preferred Alternative): Systematic inventories and evaluation for cultural resources, educational efforts, annual monitoring and increased patrols will provide baseline data and increased surveillance for the increased protection of cultural resources from vandalism, recreation uses and unauthorized actions. Improved access for recreation use by vehicle and motorized craft would result in increased incidents of looting and vandalism to archaeological and burial sites. Monitoring of recreation uses, implementation of grazing management restrictions and standard project design stipulations would be beneficial to the protection of historical and archaeological sites.

Alternative B and C: Increased levels of patrol and monitoring for all cultural resource sites in the river corridor provides a greater degree of protection of cultural values. Cooperative agreements provide an opportunity for additional protection of cultural resources on all lands. The emphasis on naturalness, limitations on other resource uses and new road developments, elimination of livestock grazing in the river corridor would result in higher number and degree of in-place

preservation of cultural resource sites and values.

Alternative D: Periodic patrols, limited monitoring, and project-initiated inventories will provide some protection to sensitive resources located in highest use zones, but will lead to gradual loss of cultural values and archaeological/historical site integrity to both natural forces and unauthorized human-caused action. Implementing livestock grazing management restrictions in the river corridor will provide opportunities for inventories and evaluations in support of grazing plans and will be beneficial to the protection of cultural resources from livestock trampling. Uncontrolled recreation uses will result in increased incidents of vandalism and gradual loss or damage to archaeological sites and traditional use localities.

## Livestock

Alternative A (Preferred Alternative): With this alternative, public land grazing would be moderately affected through season, number, and utilization level management. Under this management, range rehabilitation projects and reforestation protection would temporarily decrease necessary grazing to livestock owners. Some grazing could enhance tree populations and noxious weed abatement.

Alternative B and C: Both of these proposals are unacceptable due to the complete elimination of grazing ability on public lands. Livestock operations would be impacted by decreased grazing areas, community stability would be affected negatively, and private land would have to carry more AUM's or reduce numbers of livestock. Because of the public land ownership patterns and topography, fencing of all public land to eliminate grazing is not feasible.



## Wallowa River Segment Impacts of Alternatives

Alternative D: This option is the most acceptable option of the four alternatives. Although the seasonal, number and utilization level restrictions will to some extent alter the past and current grazing systems, it will at least still maintain for grazing on public land with an authorized permit.

### Transportation

Alternative A (Preferred Alternative): The impacts to the transportation along the river corridor under this alternative would be minimal. By continued maintenance of existing roads without eliminating the possibility of necessary new roads construction, existing travel means can be retained. At the same time, the criteria of maintenance activities meeting visual and cultural resource requirements will continue to enhance the visual aesthetics of the corridor.

Alternative B and C: Under these alternatives, the possible need for new road construction would be eliminated. Although the remaining actions to this alternative are the same as alternative A, the absence of new road construction could possibly hinder transportation if existing roads become unrepairable.

Alternative D: Alternative D would maintain current policies.

### Hydro-power (Water Resource)

Alternative A (Preferred Alternative) and B: The impacts of these alternatives would be beneficial to the quality of water in the river corridor. By maintaining a free flowing river with continued livestock utilization combined with the development of water quality programs and activity stipulations will create a more controlled and maintained water resource.

Alternative C: This alternative lists the same actions as A and B except that it eliminates all activities that could possibly degrade the water quality of the river. This alternative would be the most beneficial to the water resource by creating a sterile situation of water quality control.

Alternative D: This alternative would impact the river in a very negative way. By maintaining the current use conditions without formulating any control measures, the quality of the existing water resource can not possibly be regulated or maintained.

### Landowner Rights

None of the four mentioned alternatives would effect the rights of the private landowner from what currently exists as directed by Union and Wallowa zoning and the Oregon State Scenic Waterway Administration rules.

Under alternatives A (preferred alternative) and D, land acquisition programs will not change from current management. However, under alternatives B and C, agencies will actively pursue acquisitions, resulting in larger acreages of the corridor in public ownership.

### Biodiversity

Alternative A (Preferred Alternative): This alternative would have the greatest beneficial impact on the river corridor due to the action of enhancing the flora, fauna and physical elements most similar to the present baseline condition. Both alternatives A and B allow for maintaining or enhancing the aforementioned elements while D offers strictly to maintain those elements. Only the preferred alternative (A) would make enhancement a necessity.



## Grande Ronde River (Wild and Scenic River Segment)

The Omnibus Oregon Wild & Scenic Rivers Act of 1988 designated 43.8 miles of the Grande Ronde River from Rondowa to the Oregon/Washington border, in the following classes;

**Segment A** Recreational: The 1.5 miles from Rondowa to the Umatilla Forest boundary.

**Segment B** Wild: The 26.4 miles from the Umatilla Forest boundary to Wildcat Creek.

**Segment C** Recreational: The 15.9 miles from Wildcat Creek to the Oregon/Washington border.

For the purposes of this management plan, the BLM, as the lead agency, established a corridor based on resource values not to exceed an average of 320 acres per river mile. The attached Map shows private and federal land ownership. The State Scenic Waterway segment which overlaps with the federal Wild and Scenic River designation is from Rondowa to the Oregon/Washington border. The boundaries for the State Scenic Waterway are set at ¼ mile on each side of the river from mean high water line, and as set by legislation.

The designated segments of the Grande Ronde River to the Oregon/Washington stateline is included in with the Wallowa and Grande Ronde (Washington segment) to produce one management plan for the entire 90 mile river corridor.

## Range of Alternatives

**ALTERNATIVE A:** Promote maximum resource utilization within the parameters of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act.

### Land

- Though year long cattle grazing is rarely feasible in the Wild section, year long grazing of the corridor will be allowed on public land through permit licensing by the appropriate agency.
- Rotation systems to disperse livestock and achieve desired utilization levels will be established through the development of grazing plans.
- Fencing, water developments and holding facilities will be developed at critical locations to assist livestock management.
- Reintroduce fire as an effective vegetative management tool through the use of prescribed burns.
- Eliminate or reduce to acceptable levels of fuel build-up and hazards that are a result of past management and/or natural catastrophic events.
- Continue present fire suppression agreements between BLM, Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry.
- Develop control systems for weeds, insects, and disease to include herbicides, pesticides, fire, plowing, seeding, and biological controls.



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Alt. A

- Agricultural practices on public land administered by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will utilize current ground manipulation, herbicide, and pesticide applications for producing desired forage.
- Mineral extraction is allowed within the recreation classification segments and closed to mineral extraction in the wild classification segment.
- Mineral extraction on public land will require a plan of operation, demonstrating protection of Wild and Scenic river values.
- Optimize wood fiber outputs on all available moderate or highly capable land.
- Utilize harvest prescriptions which have low visual impact, yet favor fire tolerant species, by emulation the mosaic character of the natural landscape.
- Attempt to always keep some large old trees in the stands.
- Reduce current stand densities as needed to maintain stand vigor.

### Water

- Water quality monitoring will be conducted within the corridor to determine point and non-point source pollution.
- Resource management actions within the corridor will meet minimum water quality standards as set by

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

- Stipulate resource activities on public land within the corridor watershed that would have the potential to degrade water quality or quantity of the Grande Ronde River to protect those values.
- Develop a water monitoring program to assist agencies and private landowners in water quality and quantity requirements for fish and wildlife, domestic water rights, and recreation uses.
- Identify sources of pollution within the corridor and correct where economically and physically feasible.
- Existing water rights will not be affected by management actions in this plan.
- Livestock watering and irrigation uses of the river will continue.

### Biological

- Implement resource activities to maintain wildlife and fish populations.
- Minimize human impacts through the use of intensive public awareness programs.
- Maintain habitat requirements for species that fall under the Federal Threatened and Endangered Species Act.
- Develop cooperative agreements between Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and private landowners for protection and maintenance of riparian habitats.



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Alt. A

- Management activities within the corridor will maintain flora, fauna and physical elements most similar to baseline conditions.
- Stipulate road development on public land within the river corridor.

### Social

- Improve river staging and camping areas to include handicap and family opportunity requirements, additional vehicle parking, boat access, and restroom facilities.
- Continue commercial permit programs for river outfitters that require one permit for all administrative jurisdictions.
- Continue existing uses of private land within the corridor as directed by Union and Wallowa county zoning and the Oregon State Scenic Waterway administrative rules.
- Management actions will not adversely affect the existing rural lifestyles of corridor residents.
- Maintain physical resources to insure the continuation and expansion of resource based industries.
- Manage existing and prescribed levels of resource utilization in the agricultural and forest industries to maintain resource opportunities.
- Assist Union and Wallowa counties in broadening the economic base of various

- communities through cost share and grant programs.
- Open river corridor to both motorized and non-motorized watercraft.
- Voluntary river registration for all recreational users of the Grande Ronde corridor.
- Voluntary use of fire pans and pack out of human waste.
- Develop intensive visitor awareness programs for river resources and user interrelationships, along with river resource policies (ie...carry in/carry out).
- Develop and implement awareness programs (ie...posters/signs/published articles) to accommodate residents and non-residents on types of river resource experiences in both seasonal periods and transportational methods.
- Develop intensive awareness programs between private landowners, users, and the general public on rights and responsibilities of all involved parties.

### Cultural/Aesthetics

- Implement a systematic program of inventory and evaluation for cultural resources on public lands, including traditional use areas and cultural values.
- Conduct periodic patrols of all cultural resource sites, and install protection signs to discourage vandalism.
- Conduct bi-monthly patrols of highly sensitive and



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Alt. A

vulnerable archaeological sites.

- Complete baseline condition documentation of sensitive archaeological and historical sites.
- Develop an information and education program for the general public on protection of cultural resources in the river corridor.
- Develop agreements between state and federal agencies, tribes, and private landowners for the protection of cultural resources.
- Conduct annual monitoring of all cultural resources on public lands.
- Inventory and evaluate the aesthetic values along the river corridor.
- Stipulate development projects, including resources commodity uses to insure that management activities are subordinate to the characteristic landscape and do not dominate the immediate viewshed.
- During construction projects, incorporate visual design criteria that are compatible with the corridor's characteristic landscape.

### Administrative

- Develop and implement monitoring methods to determine maximum visitor use of the corridor. Continue monitoring process to insure appropriate changes in visitor use possibilities.

- Develop cooperative agreements between all involved agencies groups.
- Develop management actions within the corridor and basin to insure the existing lifestyles of corridor residents, while maximizing corridor conditions and public use.
- Implement monitoring and management practices in relation to federal and state regulations.
- Assess cost estimate in regards to possible catastrophic events, legislation and economic efficiency.
- Develop contingency plans for proper action during emergency situations (catastrophic events).
- Develop a list of possible members for an informal problem solving work group.
- Continue existing water rights of landowners, while maintaining minimum flow requirements according to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).
- Implement cooperative inter-agency agreements to develop law enforcement policies and patrol criteria and responsibilities of each agency.
- Implement developmental procedures for the recreational use from Minam to Heller Bar, Wash. in regards to maximum public use.
- Develop intensive public awareness programs and signing plans to clearly



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Alt A/B (Preferred Alternative)

identify boundary lines between public and private lands.

- Develop studies to determine if acquisition of private lands is necessary to meet the minimum protection criteria of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Agencies will not actively pursue acquisition.
- Develop maintenance and improvement programs to increase public use facilities and utilities.
- Increase new road development on public lands to increase user opportunities.
- Continue maintenance of transportation systems including state, county, and private roads.
- Maintenance activities will meet visual and cultural resource requirements.
- New transportation requirements on private land will meet Oregon State Scenic Waterway guidelines within the corridor.

### **ALTERNATIVE B (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE):**

Protect and Enhance Outstanding Resource Values (ORV) with emphasis on private landowner interest.

#### **Land**

- Livestock grazing of the corridor will be allowed on public land through permit licensing by the appropriate agency.
- Seasons of use and rotation systems to disperse livestock

and achieve desired utilization levels will be established through the development of grazing plans with individual permit holders.

- Fencing, water developments and holding facilities will be developed at critical locations to assist livestock management.
- Reintroduce fire as an effective vegetative management tool through the use of prescribed burns.
- Eliminate or reduce to acceptable levels of fuel build-up and hazards that are a result of past management and/or natural catastrophic events.
- Continue present fire suppression agreements between BLM, Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry.
- Develop control systems for weeds, insects, and disease to include herbicides, pesticides, fire, plowing, seeding, and biological controls.
- Agricultural practices on public land administered by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will utilize current ground manipulation applications for producing desired forage.
- Mineral extraction is allowed within the recreation classification segments and closed to mineral extraction in the wild classification segment.
- Mineral extraction on public land will require a plan of



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Alt. B (Preferred Alternative)

operation, demonstrating protection of Wild and Scenic river values.

- Salvage of dead and dying timber may be used as a means of maintaining or enhancing ORV's.
- Utilize timber harvest as a tool to restore forest health and improve wildlife habitat whenever it is the most effective method.

### Water

- Water quality monitoring will be conducted within the corridor to determine cause, extent, and location of point and non-point source pollution.
- Resource management actions within the corridor will meet minimum water quality standards as set by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.
- Develop a water monitoring program to assist agencies and private land owners in water quality and quantity requirements for resource needs and domestic water rights.
- Stipulate resource activities on public land within the corridor watershed that would have the potential to degrade water quality of quantity of the Grande Ronde River to protect and enhance those values.
- Identify sources of pollution within the corridor and correct where economically and physically feasible.

- Existing water rights will not be affected by management actions in this plan.
- Livestock watering and irrigation uses of the river will continue.

### Biological

- Monitor and assess fish and wildlife habitat and watershed degradation from activities located inside or outside the corridor. Where possible, modify these activities.
- Manage resource activities to restore wildlife and fish habitat and watershed stabilization by utilizing instream, riparian, and watershed improvement projects.
- Monitor sensitive, threatened, and/or endangered plant and wildlife species populations. Identify and improve habitat conditions (quality and quantity) that might be limiting.
- Improve habitat requirements for species that fall under the Federal Threatened and Endangered Species Act.
- Monitor and assess fish and wildlife ecological requirements to enhance existing populations of corridor species.
- Develop cooperative agreements between Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and private landowners for protection



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Alt. B (Preferred Alternative)

and enhancement of riparian habitats.

- Maintain or enhance fish and wildlife populations using current and updated management practices as determined by ODFW, Nez Perce, CTUIR, and related agencies.
- Develop monitoring activities of corridor fish and wildlife populations to ensure long term biodiversity and productivity.
- Management activities within the corridor will balance flora, fauna and physical element conditions in conformance with the vision statement.
- Assess and develop short term and long term management possibilities with regards to long term diversity and productivity.
- Monitor the impacts of recreation on wintering wildlife species and nesting activities of bald eagles within the corridor.
- Implement limitations on recreation use when monitoring studies determine that use exceeds acceptable biological impacts on wintering wildlife species and nesting activities of bald eagles within the corridor.

### Social

- Improve river staging areas to better accommodate all river users.
- Develop monitoring studies to determine the social

carrying capacity of the river corridor.

- Implement limitations when monitoring studies determine that social use exceeds limits of acceptable change.
- Continue commercial permit programs for river outfitters that require one permit for all administrative jurisdictions.
- Close river corridor to motorized watercraft use from 1.5 miles below Rondowa (forest boundary) to the Oregon/Washington stateline with the exception of search and rescue efforts directed by the appropriate county sheriff and for private landowner access for land management activities in existence at the time of the Act.
- Develop intensive visitor awareness programs for river resources and user interrelationships, along with river resource policies (ie...carry in/carry out).
- Develop and implement awareness programs (ie...posters/signs/published articles) to accommodate residents and non-residents on types of river resource experiences in both seasonal periods and transportational methods.
- Develop intensive awareness programs between private landowners, users, and the general public on rights and responsibilities of all involved parties.
- Develop monitoring programs to assess large and small effects to river corridor and



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Alt. B (Preferred Alternative)

surrounding area. Implement any policies needed to adjust for negative sociological implications.

- Continue existing uses of private land within the corridor as directed by Union and Wallowa county zoning and the Oregon State Scenic Waterway Administrative Rules.
- Ensure management actions maintain existing rural lifestyles of corridor residents.
- Maintain existing and prescribed levels of resource utilizations in the agricultural and forest industries.
- Maintain physical resources to insure the continuation of recreation based industries.
- Assist Union and Wallowa counties in broadening the economic bases of various communities through resource cost share and grant programs.
- Maintain existing campsites within the corridor in their current undeveloped condition.
- In the 1.5 mile recreation segment motorized watercraft use would be allowed to continue subject to the results of monitoring studies to determine its social and biological impacts.
- Develop and implement interim limitations on motorized watercraft on the 1.5 mile recreation segment as determined through monitoring studies (limits on

the number of launches, number of trips, number of commercial permits, seasonal use, size of watercraft, and horsepower and other appropriate limits may be considered). This monitoring will be done jointly between BLM, Forest Service, State Marine Board, an Oregon Registered Outfitter, and a private motorized watercraft operator.

- Develop regulations and facilities to require mandatory packout of human waste and garbage.

### Cultural/Aesthetics

- Implement a systematic program of inventory and evaluation for cultural resources on public lands, including traditional use areas and cultural values.
- Conduct periodic patrols of all cultural resources sites, and install protection signs to discourage vandalism.
- Conduct bi-monthly patrols of highly sensitive and vulnerable archaeological sites.
- Complete baseline condition documentation of sensitive archaeological and historical sites.
- Develop an information and education program for the general public on protection of cultural resources in the river corridor.
- Develop agreements between state and federal agencies,



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Alt. B (Preferred Alternative)

and tribes for protection of cultural resources.

- Conduct annual monitoring of cultural resources on public lands in high use areas.
- Inventory and evaluate the aesthetic values along the river corridor.
- Develop an information and education program for the general public on the protection of the aesthetic properties of the corridor.
- Stipulate development projects, including resource commodity uses to insure that management activities are subordinate to the characteristic landscape and do not dominate the immediate viewshed.
- During construction projects, incorporate visual design requirements that are compatible with the corridor's characteristic landscape.

### Administrative

- Develop and implement monitoring methods to determine maximum visitor use of the corridor. Continue monitoring programs to ensure appropriate changes in visitor use compatible with the protection of the corridor resource.
- Develop cooperative agreements between all involved agencies and groups.
- Develop management actions within the corridor and basin to insure the existing

lifestyles of corridor residents, while maximizing corridor conditions and public use.

- Implement monitoring and management practices in relation to federal and state regulations.
- Assess cost estimate in regards possible catastrophic events, legislation and economic efficiency.
- Develop contingency plans for proper action during emergency situations (catastrophic events).
- Develop a list of possible members for an informal problem solving work group.
- Continue existing water rights of landowners, while maintaining minimum flow requirements according to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).
- Implement cooperative inter-agency agreements to develop adequate law enforcement policies and patrol criteria and responsibilities of each agency.
- Implement developmental procedures for the recreational use from Minam to Heller Bar, Wash., in regards to public use.
- Develop intensive public awareness programs and signing plans to clearly identify boundary lines between public and private lands.
- Develop studies to determine if acquisition of private lands is necessary to meet the protection and/or



**Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment  
Alt. B (Preferred Alternative)/Alt. C**

enhancement criteria of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Agencies will not actively pursue acquisition.

- Determine that acquisition of private lands meets the minimum criteria of a Wild and Scenic designation, and includes only those characteristics that created the initial designation.
- Develop maintenance and improvement programs on existing facilities and access points to better facilitate public use.
- Develop a water monitoring program to assist agencies and private landowners in water quality and quantity requirements for fish and wildlife enhancement and utilities.
- Continue maintenance of transportation systems including state, county, and private roads.
- Maintenance activities will meet visual and cultural resource requirements.
- New transportation requirements on private land will meet Oregon State Scenic Waterway guidelines within the corridor.
- Minimize new road development on public land within the river corridor.
- Continue utilization of corridor to water domestic livestock.

**ALTERNATIVE C:**

Protect and Enhance Outstanding Resource Values (ORV) with emphasis on recreation diversity.

**Land**

- Manage domestic livestock grazing within the river corridor on public land to low utilization levels.
- Establish information network where livestock owners are informed of stray animals. Initiate trespass actions on unauthorized use of public land by livestock within the corridor. Fence public land in high use recreation areas.
- Reintroduce fire as an effective vegetative management tool through the use of prescribed burns.
- Eliminate or reduce to acceptable levels of fuel build-up and hazards that are a result of past management and/or natural catastrophic events.
- Continue present fire suppression agreements between BLM, Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry.
- Develop control systems for weeds, insects and disease to include fire, plowing, seeding and biological controls.
- Agricultural practices on public land administered by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will utilize ground manipulation applications for producing desired forage.
- Mineral extraction is allowed within the recreation classification segments and closed to mineral extraction



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Alt. C

in the wild classification segment.

- Mineral extraction on public land will require a plan of operation, demonstrating protection of Wild and Scenic river values.
- Optimize wood fiber outputs on all available moderate or highly capable land.
- Utilize harvest prescriptions which have low visual impact, yet favor fire tolerant species, by emulation the mosaic character of the natural landscape.
- Attempt to always keep some large old trees in the stands.
- Reduce current stand densities as needed to maintain stand vigor.
- Limit forestry activities to those which are necessary to maintain forest health and/or are out of view of the river.

### Water

- Water quality monitoring will be conducted within the corridor to determine point and non-point source pollution.
- Resource management actions within the corridor will meet desired water quality standards as set by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.
- Identify sources of pollution within the corridor and correct where physically feasible.
- Develop monitoring programs to assist agencies and private landowners in water quality

and quantity requirements for recreation uses.

- Stipulate resource activities on public land within the corridor watershed that would have the potential to degrade water quality or quantity of the Grande Ronde River to enhance water resources.
- Existing water rights will not be affected by management actions in this plan.
- Livestock watering and irrigation uses of the river will continue.

### Biological

- Maintain and enhance resource activities to improve wildlife and fish populations by utilizing instream and riparian improvement projects.
- Maintain or improve habitat requirements for species that fall under the Federal Threatened and Endangered Species Act.
- Monitor and assess fish and wildlife ecological requirements to maintain or enhance existing populations of corridor species.
- Maintain cooperative agreements between Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and private landowners.
- Develop monitoring activities of corridor fish and wildlife populations to insure long term biodiversity and productivity.
- Management activities within the corridor will enhance



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Alt. C

flora, fauna and physical elements most similar to baseline conditions.

### Social

- Obtain access easements from private land owners in the Rondwa vicinity for vehicle access to the confluence of the Wallowa and Grande Ronde rivers.
- Maintain and enhance river staging and camping areas to include handicap and family opportunity requirements, additional vehicle parking, boat access and restroom facilities.
- Develop monitoring studies to determine the social carrying capacity of the river corridor.
- Implement party size limitations when monitoring studies determine that social use exceeds limits of acceptable change.
- Continue commercial permit programs for river outfitters that require one permit for all administrative jurisdictions.
- Continue existing uses of private land within the corridor as directed by Union and Wallowa county zoning and the Oregon State Scenic Waterway administrative rules.
- Open river corridor to both motorized and non-motorized watercraft.
- Develop intensive visitor awareness programs for river resources and user interrelationships, along with

river resource policies (ie...carry in/carry out).

- Develop and implement awareness programs (ie...posters/signs/published articles) to accommodate residents and non-residents on types of river resource experiences in both seasonal periods and transportational methods.
- Develop intensive awareness programs between private landowners, users, and the general public in rights and responsibilities of all involved parties.
- Develop monitoring programs to assess effects to river corridor and surrounding area. Implement any policies needed to adjust for negative sociological implications.
- Management actions may adversely affect the existing rural lifestyles of corridor residents.
- Maintain physical resources to insure the continuation and expansion of recreation based industries.
- Assist Union and Wallowa counties in broadening the economic base of various communities through recreation cost share and grant programs.
- Mandatory use of fire pans and pack out of human waste.

### Cultural/Aesthetics

- Implement a systematic program of inventory and evaluation for cultural resources on public lands,



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Alt. C

including traditional use areas and cultural values.

- Conduct periodic patrols of all cultural resources sites, and install protection signs to discourage vandalism.
- Conduct weekly patrols of highly sensitive and vulnerable archaeological sites.
- Complete baseline condition documentation of sensitive archaeological and historical sites.
- Develop an information and education program for the general public on protection of cultural resources and aesthetic properties in the river corridor.
- Develop agreements between state and federal agencies, and tribes for protection of cultural resources.
- Conduct annual monitoring of cultural resources on public lands in high use areas.
- Inventory and evaluate the aesthetic values along the river corridor.
- Stipulate development projects, including resource commodity uses to insure that management activities are subordinate to the characteristic landscape and do not dominate the immediate viewshed.
- During construction projects, incorporate visual design requirements that are compatible with the corridor's characteristic landscape.

### Administrative

- Develop and implement monitoring methods to determine maximum visitor use of the corridor. Continue monitoring process to insure appropriate changes in visitor use possibilities.
- Develop cooperative agreements between all involved agencies and groups.
- Management actions within the corridor and basin will alter the existing lifestyles of corridor residents, while maximizing corridor conditions and public use.
- Implement monitoring and management practices within the guidelines of federal and state regulations.
- Assess cost estimate in regards to possible catastrophic events, legislation and economic efficiency.
- Develop contingency plans for proper action during emergency situations (catastrophic events).
- Continue existing water rights of landowners, while maintaining minimum flow requirements according to Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD).
- Implement cooperative inter-agency agreements to develop adequate law enforcement policies and patrol criteria and responsibilities of each agency.
- Implement developmental procedures for the



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Alt. C/D

recreational use from Minam to Heller Bar, Wash., in regards to maximum public use.

- Develop intensive public awareness programs and signing plans to clearly identify boundary lines between public and private lands.
- Develop studies to determine if acquisition of private lands is necessary to meet the enhancement criteria of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Agencies will actively pursue acquisition.
- Determine maximum private land acquisition needs to meet the minimum criteria of a Wild and Scenic designation.
- Develop maintenance and improvement programs to increase public use facilities and utilities.
- Implement new road development programs to maximize the recreational use possibilities.

### ALTERNATIVE D:

Protect and Enhance Outstanding Resource Values (ORV) with emphasis on Naturalness (Wildlife/Fisheries/Vegetation).

#### **Land**

- Eliminate domestic livestock grazing within the river corridor on public land.
- Initiate trespass actions on unauthorized use of public land by livestock within the

corridor. Fence public land from livestock grazing.

- Continue present fire suppression agreements between BLM, Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry.
- Agricultural practices on public land administered by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will utilize ground manipulation applications for producing desired forage.
- Mineral extraction on public land will not be allowed.
- Eliminated all harvest and thinning of timber in the corridor which is visible from the river.

#### **Water**

- Water quality monitoring will be conducted within the corridor to determine point and non-point source pollution.
- Resource management actions within the corridor will exceed minimum water quality standards as set by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.
- Identify sources of pollution within the corridor and correct where economically and physically feasible.
- Develop a water monitoring program to assist agencies and private landowner in water quality and quantity requirements for fish and wildlife.
- Eliminate resource activities on public land within the corridor watershed that



**Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment  
Alt. D**

would have the potential to degrade water quality or quantity of the river.

- Existing water rights will not be affected by management actions in this plan.
- Livestock watering and irrigation uses of the river will continue.

**Biological**

- Monitor and assess current management activities with regards to possible external sources of influence as well as within the river corridor.
- Maximize resource activities to enhance wildlife and fish populations by utilizing instream and riparian improvement projects.
- Maintain or enhance fish and wildlife populations using current and updated management practices as determined by ODFW, Nez Perce Tribe, and related agencies.
- Improve habitat requirements for species that fall under the Federal Threatened and Endangered Species Act.
- Monitor and assess fish and wildlife ecological requirements to enhance existing populations of corridor species.
- Develop cooperative agreements between Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and private landowners for protection and enhancement of riparian habitats.
- Maintain or enhance riparian habitats through utilization of

current and updated management practices.

- Develop monitoring activities of corridor fish and wildlife populations to insure long term biodiversity and productivity.
- Management activities within the corridor will enhance flora, fauna and physical elements most similar to baseline conditions.
- Assess and develop short term management possibilities with regards to long term diversity and productivity.

**Social**

- Maintain river staging and camping areas along the corridor.
- Develop monitoring studies to determine the social carrying capacity of the river corridor.
- Implement party size limitations when monitoring studies determine that social use exceeds habitats ability for non-impact camping and recreational use.
- Continue commercial permit programs for river outfitters that require one permit for all administrative jurisdictions.
- Implement mandatory recreational permit registration, fire pans, and pack out of human waste for all river users.
- Close river corridor to motorized watercraft.
- Management actions are to enhance the naturalness of the corridor and will



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Alt. D

adversely affect the existing rural lifestyles of the corridor residents.

- Implement management practices of resource utilization in the agricultural and forest industries to enhance natural values.
- Develop intensive visitor awareness programs for river corridor resources to promote natural value preservation.
- Develop monitoring programs to assess large and small effects to the river corridor and surrounding area. Implement any policies needed to adjust for negative sociological implications.

### Cultural/Aesthetics

- Implement a systematic program of inventory and evaluation for cultural resources on public lands, including traditional use areas and cultural values.
- Conduct weekly patrols of all cultural resources sites, and install protection signs.
- Complete baseline condition documentation of sensitive archaeological and historical sites.
- Develop an information and education program for the general public on protection of cultural resources and aesthetic properties in the river corridor.
- Develop agreements between state and federal agencies, tribes and private landowners for protection of cultural resources.

- Conduct annual monitoring of all cultural resources.
- Inventory and evaluate the aesthetic values along the river corridor.
- Stipulate development projects, including resource commodity uses, to insure that management activities are subordinate to the characteristic landscape and do not dominate the immediate viewshed.
- During recreation construction projects, incorporate visual design criteria that are compatible with the corridor's characteristic landscape.

### Administrative

- Develop and implement monitoring methods to determine visitor use of the corridor without causing habitat resource damage.
- Develop cooperative agreements between all involved agencies and groups.
- Management actions will adversely affect the existing lifestyles of the corridor residents to maintain maximum naturalness of the corridor.
- Implement monitoring and management practices within guidelines of federal and state regulations.
- Implement studies to determine possible acquisition and easements to maximize corridor potential under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.



**Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment  
Alt. D/E**

- Assess cost estimate in regards to possible catastrophic events, legislation and economic efficiency.
- Develop contingency plans for proper action during emergency situations (catastrophic events).
- Develop a list of possible members for an informal problem solving work group.
- Develop a water monitoring program to assist agencies and private landowners in water quality and quantity requirements for fish and wildlife enhancement.
- Implement cooperative inter-agency agreements to develop adequate law enforcement policies and patrol criteria and responsibilities for each agency.
- Develop studies to determine if acquisition of private lands is necessary to meet the enhancement criteria of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Agencies will actively pursue acquisition.
- Maintain current maintenance of transportation systems including state, county and private roads with the stipulation that maintenance activities will meet the visual and cultural resource requirements.
- No new roads will be built on public land.
- Maintenance activities will meet visual and cultural resource requirements.

- New transportation requirements on private land will meet Oregon State Scenic Waterway guidelines within the corridor.
- Continue utilization of river for water domestic livestock on private land.

**ALTERNATIVE E:**

No Action beyond meeting minimum legislative intent.

**Land**

- Spring and fall cattle grazing of the corridor will be allowed on public land through permit licensing by the appropriate agency.
- Seasons of use and rotation systems to disperse livestock and achieve desired utilization levels will be established through the development of grazing plans.
- Initiate trespass actions on unauthorized use of corridor by livestock.
- Continue present fire suppression agreements between BLM, Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry.
- Agricultural practices on public land administered by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will utilize current ground manipulation, herbicide, and pesticide applications for producing desired forage.
- Mineral extraction is allowed within the recreation classification segments and



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Alt. E

closed to mineral extraction in the wild classification segment.

- Mineral extraction on public land will require a plan of operation, demonstrating protection of Wild and Scenic river values.
- Optimize wood fiber outputs on all available moderate or highly capable land.
- Utilize harvest prescriptions which have low visual impact, yet favor fire tolerant species, by emulation the mosaic character of the natural landscape.
- Attempt to always keep some large old trees in the stands.
- Reduce current stand densities as needed to maintain stand vigor.
- Salvage of dead and dying timber may be used as a means of maintaining or enhancing ORV's.
- Utilize timber harvest as a tool to restore forest health and improve wildlife habitat whenever it is the most effective method.

### Water

- Resource management actions will maintain the current water quality of the river corridor.
- Existing water rights will not be affected by management actions in this plan.
- Livestock watering and irrigation uses of the river will continue.

### Biological

- Maintain cooperative agreements with ODFW.
- Minimize human impacts to wildlife habitats and populations through public awareness programs.
- Stipulate road development on public land with the river corridor to meet Wild and Scenic River objectives.
- Maintain habitats for all species that fall under the Federal Threatened and Endangered Species Act.

### Social

- Maintain management activities that will not adversely affect the existing rural lifestyles of the corridor residents.
- Manage for existing and prescribed levels of resource utilization in the agricultural and forest industries to meet current demand within the parameters of the Acts.
- Maintain the existing river administrative facility (mobile home) at Minam to serve as a visitor contact station and river ranger quarters.
- Voluntary river registration for all recreation users of the river corridor.
- Continue the commercial permit program for river outfitters that requires one permit for all administrative jurisdictions.
- Voluntary use of fire pans and pack out of human waste.



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Alt. E/Impacts of Alternatives

### Cultural/Aesthetics

- Inventory and evaluate cultural resources in response to project specific proposals or actions.
- Conduct periodic patrols of known sites and install protection signs to discourage vandalism; complete documentation of important archaeological sites.
- Employ standard project inventory and review procedures to protect cultural resources.
- Inventory and evaluate the aesthetic values along the river corridor.

### Administrative

- Minimize road development on public land within the river corridor.
- Maintain cooperative agreements between ODFW.
- Develop management actions within the corridor and basin to insure the existing lifestyles of corridor residents, while maintaining current corridor conditions.
- Implement management practices within the guidelines of federal and state regulations.
- Determine if acquisition needs of private land is necessary to meet the minimum criteria of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and includes only those lands that contain the characteristics that created the initial designation.

- Continue existing water rights of landowners while maintaining minimum flow requirements according to Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD).
- Continue maintenance of transportation systems, including state, county and private roads.

## Impacts of Alternatives

### Land

Alternative A: Land conditions under this alternative would benefit only slightly. Livestock operators would benefit by increased allotment numbers and community stability would be enhanced. Over grazing could damage the resource under this alternative. Through continued use, unprotected springs and seep areas would continue to be damaged by soil compaction and erosion.

The impacts from establishing control systems for weed, insects, and disease through the use of herbicides, pesticides, fire, plowing/seeding and biological controls in combination with agricultural practices administered by ODFW will benefit the corridor by improving desired vegetation, forage quality and increase the riparian health.

The reintroduction of fire as a vegetative management tool would have only temporary effects to the corridor viewshed. Although the visual aesthetics would be reduced for a short period of time, the reduction of fuel buildup along with new growth would significantly increase the corridor's riparian and forest health. In addition, by continuing current fire suppression agreements between BLM and appropriate agencies, catastrophic fire



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Impacts of Alternatives

occurrences can be controlled or eliminated.

In order to meet the requirements of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, timber harvests under all alternatives would be reduced significantly below biological potential. However, since this alternative only seeks to maintain rather than enhance ORV's, this alternative requires less reduction than others. This alternative and Alternative E may be considered as base cases (meeting minimum requirements of the Act) with regard to timber harvest.

Mineral extraction along the corridor will have a minimal impact on the viewshed. By requiring a plan of operation for the protection of the corridors Wild and Scenic qualities, the current health of the corridor should continue.

### Alternative B (Preferred Alternative):

Development of rotational grazing plans, fencing, and water holding facilities at critical locations will assist livestock management. Implementing these management techniques will improve the quantity and quality of forage vegetation and the availability of water on land that is appropriately licensed.

The reintroduction of fire as an effective vegetative management tool, and to eliminate or reduce to acceptable levels of fuel build-up will also aid the private landowner. Through the use of prescribed burns, the quality and quantity of desired cattle forage vegetation will be significantly improved. Cooperative fire suppression agreements between appropriate agencies will aid in the protection of the corridor and help maintain vegetative health and help limit the scope and severity of untimely natural burns.

Timber harvest on private land may be slightly reduced from base case under this alternative as landowners are encouraged to take measures to enhance ORV's. There is presently virtually no schedule harvest on the public land in contrast to alternatives A and E. Harvest on public land may be reduced, depending on fire occurrences and forest health conditions.

The impacts from the development of control systems for weeds, insects, and disease to include fire, plowing/seeding, biological controls, and agricultural practices of ODFW, will be the same as Alternative A.

The impacts from mineral extraction within the corridor will be the same as Alternative A.

Alternative C: Elimination of the mineral extraction action within the corridor would also improve the corridors visual appeal.

Agricultural practices administered by the Washington Department of Wildlife would aid in the reestablishment of native vegetation through the use of ground manipulation. This reestablishment of desired forage species would benefit both wildlife and riparian health.

Removal of all livestock from the public land within the corridor would result in decreased numbers of livestock, negatively affecting local income and community stability. Private land would be pressured by supporting more grazing units, or reducing livestock numbers, resulting in disruption of viable economic units. Eliminating intensive grazing would allow for the recovery of vegetation species which have been suppressed by intensive livestock use. The initiation of trespass actions on unauthorized use of the public



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Impacts of Alternatives

land by livestock within the corridor would aid in insuring the protection of public land.

The impacts from mineral extraction within the corridor will be the same as Alternative A.

The impacts from the establishment of control systems for weeds, insects, disease, and agricultural practices administered by ODFW will be the same as Alternative B.

Timber harvest would drop to marginally sustainable levels under this alternative.

The impacts from fire reintroduction in the form of prescribed burns will be the same as Alternative A.

Alternative D: The impacts resulting from the removal of livestock grazing within the corridor would be the same as Alternative C.

The continuation of fire suppression agreements with appropriate agencies will not be enough to prevent the occurrence of catastrophic fires over time.

The agricultural practices administered by ODFW will create an increase in quality and quantity of desired forage species. This increase will improve the visual condition and health of the corridor riparian areas and aid wildlife populations as well.

Timber harvest under this alternative would be virtually nonexistent. This will result in disease and fire, both prescribed and wild, being the forces that shape forest composition. The risk of catastrophic fire will be significantly increased.

Eliminating mineral extraction within the corridor would remove the possibility of

damage from mining and exploration on the viewshed.

Alternative E: The impacts from continued grazing will be the same as Alternative A.

The initiation of trespass actions on unauthorized use of the public land by livestock within the corridor would aid in insuring the protection of public land.

The continuation of present fire suppression agreements between appropriate agencies will help protect the corridor as catastrophic events occur.

The impacts from agricultural practices will be the same as Alternative D.

The continuation of mineral extraction within the recreational areas of the corridor will maintain the threat of land damage if large mineral deposits are discovered.

### Water

Alternative A: Under this alternative, the quality of the water located in the corridor would be greatly improved. Through water quality monitoring programs designed to meet minimum standards of the ODEQ, resource activity stipulations, awareness programs, and pollution suppression/control projects, the quality of the water resource of the corridor will be significantly enhanced.

Maintaining current livestock watering and irrigation practices could have a detrimental impact on the water quality. With cattle being allowed to use the corridor water supply, the damage done through trampling, soil compaction, and the resulting loss of riparian habitat and soil erosion will decrease the visual aesthetics of the corridors viewshed. Monitoring programs would aid to suppress



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Impacts of Alternatives

the extent of grazing damage, nevertheless the damage will occur.

Alternative B (Preferred Alternative): The impacts to the corridor's water quality and pollution suppression/control would be the same as Alternative A.

By maintaining the existing water rights, livestock watering, and irrigation practices within the corridor will insure that the corridor residents economic livelihood will continue.

Alternative C: The impacts on water quality under this alternative would be the same as Alternative A, except for two actions. This alternative would make those standards as set by the ODEQ to be mandatorily exceeded, and any resource activities that would degrade water quality or quantity would be eliminated.

The impacts from maintaining livestock watering within the corridor would be the same as Alternative A.

Alternative D: The impacts under this alternative will be the same as Alternative A with the exception that and resource activities that have the potential to degrade said quality or quantity will be eliminated.

Alternative E: By implementing this alternative, the continued degradation of the water quality from grazing and irrigation will continue.

### Biological

Alternative A: Under this alternative, most of the attention on the habitat and populations of corridor species is directed at maintaining the current numbers and health. Although these actions are of a positive nature, they do not allow for the future improvement of the corridors habitat or wildlife health.

Although developing cooperative agreements between ODFW and private landowners, intensive awareness programs, and stipulating management activities to maintain flora, fauna, and physical elements, will undoubtedly help to protect populations and health that now exist, no improvement programs will occur. This will stagnate the current populations. With the increase in recreational use, these maintenance activities will not be able to continue to offset the impacts from the increased numbers and occurrence of that use.

Though the goal of this alternative is to maintain the habitats of species that fall under the Threatened and Endangered Species Act, the effects of the increased use along the corridor would have the opposite effect. Adverse impacts to both plant and animal species would result from increased levels of recreation use, especially camping, motorized and non-motorized boating. Primary impacts would occur as a result of disturbance to the animals as well as habitat damage in both aquatic and riparian habitats.

Alternative B (Preferred Alternative): All of the actions that would be taken by the implementation of this alternative are aimed at creating a policy that is base on improving and maximizing habitat and wildlife species populations. However, through the implementation of cooperative agreements, management actions, and monitoring studies designed to improve or enhance, habitat, populations as determine by ODFW, as well as stipulating any activities that would damage or deface those aspects could possibly have a negative affect on the private landowners of the corridor. If it is determined that current agricultural and livestock management techniques on public land by permittees are damaging to the corridor



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Impacts of Alternatives

health, it is possible that those practices would be altered.

Alternative C: All actions held within this alternative will be similar in effect to Alternative A except that under this option, enhancement/improvement is the primary consideration. Although the effects from implementing these actions is limited in comparison to the preferred alternative, they still do allow for possible habitat and species population improvements.

Alternative D: All of the actions that would be taken by the implementation of this alternative are aimed at creating a policy that is base on improving and maximizing habitat and wildlife species populations. Through the implementation of cooperative agreements, management actions, and monitoring studies designed to improve or enhance, habitat, populations of both sensitive and non-sensitive species as determine by ODFW, as well as stipulating any activities that would damage or deface those aspects, the negative impacts of corridor use could be eliminated.

Alternative E: This alternative would not benefit the river corridor. Maintaining current conditions without properly addressing the potential for habitat improvements could lead to more disastrous effects in the event of catastrophic occurrences (ie...fire, drought, hard winter).

The minimization of human impacts and road development will help benefit the corridor. But those benefits will be minor.

### Social

Alternative A: Improving the river staging and camping areas to include handicap and family opportunity requirements, additional vehicle parking, boat access, and restroom

facilities would create a more diverse recreational area. These improvements would increase visitor recreation by increasing the different opportunities and desires of users.

The development of intensive visitor awareness programs would also increase the recreational use of the corridor. Implementing awareness campaigns, user responsibilities, and voluntary registration, voluntary fire pans and the packing out of human waste would all enhance the visual quality and cleanliness of the corridor and therefore the quantity of recreational use.

Opening the river to both motorized and non-motorized watercraft would increase the availability for the different uses of the corridor causing and increase in the recreational use and resulting in user conflicts between motorized and traditional uses of the river corridor.

The continuation of use of private land within the corridor, as directed by Union and Wallowa counties zoning and the Oregon State Scenic Waterway administrative rules, in the form of agricultural and forest utilization will help to maintain the current lifestyles of the corridor residents. Managing those activities with regards to maintaining the physical resources will also insure the increase of recreational based industries.

Alternative B (Preferred Alternative): The sociological impacts on private landowners under this alternative would result from the management of intensive awareness programs between landowners, users and the general public.

The development of visitor awareness programs to improve the interrelationships between users and landowners would be beneficial to both parties. By improving



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Impacts of Alternatives

the knowledge of the public and landowners on rights, responsibilities of corridor use, and location of private land along the corridor, altercations and misunderstanding between those parties would be reduced.

The impacts to existing lifestyles, forest/agricultural utilization would be the same as Alternative A.

Alternative C: The impacts from this alternative would similar to Alternative A. The only differences would occur in the actions dealing with obtaining access easements, adverse affects on rural lifestyles, the mandatory use of fire pans and packing out of human waste, and the implementation of party size limitations.

Obtaining access easements from private landowners would help the recreational use of the corridor by increasing the availability of specific areas. Increasing the number of staging areas would increase the total number of possible water entries by the public and more evenly distribute them along the river. In accompaniment with the access easements would be road development. New and better road development would aid those users who are unequipped with off-road vehicles to access those areas.

One of the negative sides to this alternative would be the adverse affect that it would have on the lifestyles of the corridor residents. By actively pursuing land acquisition, the current rural lifestyles of the residents could not be maintained.

The mandatory use of fire pans and the packing out of human waste would not only increase the health and physical appearance of the corridor, but would also increase the ability of the corridor to maintain a higher level of use.

Determination of carrying capacities and possible party size limitations could affect the recreational use of the corridor. Limiting party size would affect the recreation experience of both motorized and non-motorized boaters, resulting in a net loss of recreation opportunities for those having boats capable of carrying more people. However, limiting party size for motorized and non-motorized users would control or prohibit the use of larger boats and tour groups. This would have a slightly beneficial impact on the overall recreation experience of other users

Alternative D: Banning motorized watercraft on a year-round basis would cause a significant decrease in adverse impacts to resulting from recreation experience of non-motorized users. By eliminating motorized use, the disturbance of animals (bald eagles) along the corridor would be greatly reduced.

Maintaining existing staging and camping areas would cause more trampling, bank erosion and vegetation loss, also resulting in further degradation of fish and wildlife habitat. No limit on boat numbers or group size would result in continued escalation in numbers of river users. This increased use would result in more disturbances to wildlife and further degradation of wildlife habitat. In addition, allowing camping at all existing sites would result in a continuation of significant, adverse impacts on riparian soil and vegetation, in turn resulting in degradation of fish and wildlife habitat.

The impacts resulting from the establishment of mandatory registration, fire pan use, and packing out of human waste/garbage will be the same as Alternative C.



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Impacts of Alternatives

By maintaining all management, agricultural, and forest activities to enhance the natural values of the corridor will help improve those characteristics and qualities.

The development of visitor awareness programs to improve the interrelationships between users and landowners would increase the knowledge of natural value preservation to both parties. By improving this knowledge of the public and landowners on rights, responsibilities of corridor use, and importance of natural value preservation will greatly improve the understanding of management practices that occur within the boundaries of the corridor.

Alternative E: The impacts of this alternative would not alter the existing activities present in the corridor. It would also have the most detrimental affects to the corridor in regards to the indiscriminate human waste disposal, campsite and corridor degradation, and limiting the awareness of the public by not improving the visitor contact facility or informative methods.

### Cultural/Aesthetics

Alternative A: Development associated with maximization of resource uses and increased visitor use and access in the river corridor would result in increased incidents of vandalism to cultural resources. Developing cooperative landowner and law enforcement agreements, signing public lands, information and education programs, systematic inventories and gathering of baseline documentation, patrols and regular monitoring of cultural resources would be beneficial to the protection of cultural resources.

Alternative B (Preferred Alternative): Limitations on motorized river access and minimizing new road developments, in conjunction with programs for cooperative law enforcement, education, patrol and signing would increase cultural resource protection.

Alternative C: Allowing motorized access and new road development on the river would lead to increased incidents of vandalism. Weekly patrols and regular monitoring would result in more protection for cultural resources than would periodic or bi-monthly patrols.

Alternative D: Limitations on motorized river access and exclusion of new road developments; coupled with resource use restrictions, law enforcement and landowner agreements, education and inventory/monitoring programs, and weekly patrols would provide the maximum protection for cultural resources among all alternatives.

Alternative E: Periodic patrols, limited project monitoring, and project-initiated inventories will provide some protection to sensitive resources located in highest use zones, but will lead to gradual loss of cultural values and archaeological/historical site integrity to both natural forces and unauthorized human-caused action.

### Administrative

Alternative A: Under this alternative, administrative actions for the management of the corridor would result in maintaining visual requirements, rural lifestyles, agency cooperative agreements, and water rights. Current management strategies involving private land will continue unaffected.

Expanding public use facilities, including road improvement and/or construction, and recreation facilities from Minam, Oregon to



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment Impacts of Alternatives

Heller Bar, Washington will greatly increase recreation opportunities and use visitation along the corridor. These improvements will provide for increased user awareness of corridor resource opportunities.

Through the use of intensive visitor awareness programs, emergency contingency plans and informal problem solving work groups, the public involvement and awareness can be significantly increased. These awareness programs will be aimed at informing the public on corridor opportunities, responsibilities, and restrictions. The development of informal problem solving work groups and emergency contingency plans will insure the health of the corridor and corridor users in the case of catastrophic events.

Implementation of cooperative agreements between agencies to develop adequate law enforcement policies and patrol criteria in relation to federal and state regulations will insure that the regulations involved with river use are being observed.

By developing studies to determine land acquisition and easement needs to meet the minimum legislative intent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, private land acquisition will be held to a minimum, while protecting those values for which Congress designated the river.

Maintaining existing water rights according to OWRD, and transportation maintenance of county, state, and private roads will insure the recreational use aimed for in this proposal continues with little or no affect on the lifestyles of corridor residents.

By stipulating maintenance activities to meet visual and cultural resource requirement will make sure that all

characteristics that appeal to the recreational user are present.

Alternative B (Preferred Alternative): By developing and implementing studies to determine land acquisition and easement needs to meet the minimum legislative intent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, private land acquisition will be held to a minimum, while protecting and enhancing those values for which Congress designated the river.

Continuation of current transportation systems including county, state and private roads, and stipulating new transportation requirements on private land to meet Oregon State Scenic Waterway guidelines will also maintain the current use and availability of the corridor to the residents.

Alternative C: The impacts from this alternative would be the same as Alternative A except in regards to corridor resident lifestyles, and land acquisition.

Under this alternative, the active pursuit of land acquisition and elimination of existing water rights and livestock watering will improve the recreational potential of the corridor. By insuring that all Wild and Scenic characteristics within the corridor are included in land acquisition, the visual aesthetics and primitive appeal to the public will be present.

Alternative D: By developing and implementing studies to determine land acquisition and easement needs to meet the maximum legislative intent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, private land acquisition will actively sought to protect those values for which Congress designated the river.

The implementation of contingency plans and problem solving work groups for the



## Grande Ronde Wild & Scenic River Segment - Impacts of Alternatives

protection of natural values will insure the survival of these values in the case of catastrophic occurrences.

Eliminating new road development, stipulating maintenance activities, and maintaining current transportation systems to meet visual and cultural requirements will help to preserve the corridor's natural values.

Maintaining current livestock watering will have a detrimental impact on the natural values of the corridor. With cattle being allowed to use the corridor water supply, the damage done through trampling, soil compaction, and the resulting loss of riparian habitat and soil erosion will decrease the visual aesthetics of the corridors viewshed. Monitoring programs might suppress the extent of livestock watering damage, nevertheless the damage will occur.

The implementation of cooperative agreements to develop adequate law enforcement policies and patrol criteria will help insure the natural value are protected and requirements relating to those values are enforced.

**Alternative E:** By developing studies to determine land acquisition and easement needs to meet the minimum legislative intent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, private land acquisition will be held to a minimum, while protecting those values for which Congress designated the river.

This alternative would maintain current conditions and policies that presently exist within the corridor in the forms of resident lifestyles, cooperative agreements and road maintenance.

## Grande Ronde River Washington Segment - Alt. A

### Grande Ronde River (Washington Segment)

The entire Wallowa/Grande Ronde Rivers reach from Minam, OR., to the confluence with the Snake River at Heller Bar, WA., was identified in the Baker Resource Management Plan (RMP) as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) and Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to be managed as one continuous river segment.

The Washington segment of the Grande Ronde River from the Washington/Oregon stateline to Heller Bar, WA., on the Snake River was included with the Wallowa and Grande Ronde (Oregon Wild and Scenic River segment) to produce one management plan for the entire 90 mile river corridor.

### Range of Alternatives

**ALTERNATIVE A:** Promote maximum resource utilization within the parameters of local, state, and federal law, regulations and/or policy within the river corridor.

#### Public Land

- Develop cooperative agreements between all involved agencies groups.
- Management actions within the corridor must conform to existing local, county and state zoning standards and requirements.
- Maintain the current Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) through Baker Resource Area Management Plan.



## Grande Ronde River Washington Segment Alt. A

- Develop and implement intensive visitor awareness programs for river resources and user interrelationships, along with river resource policies (ie...carry in/carry out).
- Develop and implement awareness programs (ie...posters/signs/published articles) to accommodate residents and non-residents on types of river resource experiences in both seasonal periods and transportation methods.
- Develop intensive awareness programs between private landowners, users, and the general public on rights and responsibilities of all involved parties.
- Assist Asotin county in broadening the economic base of various communities through recreation cost share and grant programs.
- Develop cooperative agreements between Washington Department of Wildlife and private landowners for protection and maintenance of riparian habitats.
- Minimize human impacts through the use of intensive public awareness programs.
- Agricultural practices on public land administered by Washington Department of Wildlife will utilize current ground manipulation, herbicide, and pesticide applications for producing desired forage.
- Mineral extraction is allowed within the river corridor under existing BLM policy requirements.
- Mineral extraction on public land will require a plan of operation, demonstrating protection of river values.
- Continue present fire suppression agreements between respective agencies.
- Livestock grazing of the corridor will be allowed on public land through permit licensing by the respective agency.
- Seasons of use and rotation systems to disperse livestock and achieve desired utilization levels will be established through the development of grazing plans.
- Fencing, water developments and holding facilities will be developed at critical locations to assist livestock management.
- Reintroduce fire as an effective vegetative management tool through the use of prescribed burns.
- Eliminate or reduce to acceptable levels of fuel build-up and hazards that are a result of past management and/or natural catastrophic events.
- Implement monitoring and management practices in conformance with federal and state regulations.
- Develop an acquisition/easement program to maximize resource potential under this alternative. Agencies will not actively pursue land acquisitions or easements.



## Grande Ronde River Washington Segment Alt. A

- Develop contingency plans for proper action during emergency situations.
- Develop a list of possible members for an informal problem solving work group.
- Implement cooperative inter-agency agreements to develop adequate law enforcement policies and patrol criteria and responsibilities of each agency.
- Develop intensive public awareness programs and signing plans to clearly identify boundary lines between public and private lands.
- Existing water rights will not be affected by management actions in this plan.
- Increase new road development on public lands to increase user opportunities.
- Continue maintenance of transportation systems including state, county, and private roads.

### Private Land

- Continue existing water rights of landowners, while maintaining minimum flow requirements according to Washington Department of Wildlife.
- Develop management actions within the corridor and basin to insure the existing lifestyles of corridor residents, while maximizing corridor conditions and public use.

- Continue existing uses of private land within the corridor as directed by Asotin County Shoreline Regulations.
- Livestock watering and irrigation uses of the river will continue.

### Environmental

- Maintenance activities will meet visual and cultural resource requirements.
- New transportation requirements on private land will meet Asotin county Shoreline standards within the corridor.
- Voluntary use of fire pans and pack out of human waste.
- Management activities within the corridor will maintain flora, fauna and physical elements most similar to baseline conditions.
- Maintain habitat requirements for species that fall under the Federal Threatened and Endangered Species Act.
- Implement resource activities to maintain wildlife and fish populations.
- Develop control systems for weeds, insects and disease to include herbicides, pesticides, fire, plowing seeding and biological controls.
- Agricultural practices on public land administered by Washington Department of Wildlife will utilize current ground manipulation, herbicide, and pesticide



## Grande Ronde River Washington Segment Alt. A

applications for producing desired forage.

- Water quality monitoring will be conducted within the corridor to determine point and non-point source pollution.
- Resource management actions within the corridor will meet minimum water quality standards as set by Washington Department of Ecology.
- Develop a water monitoring program to assist agencies and private land owners in water quality and quantity requirements for domestic water rights.
- Stipulate resource activities on public land within the corridor watershed that would have the potential to degrade water quality of quantity of the Grande Ronde River.
- Identify sources of pollution within the corridor and correct where economically and physically feasible.

### Recreational

- Develop maintenance and improvement programs to increase public use facilities and utilities.
- Increase new road development on public lands to increase user opportunities.
- Continue maintenance of transportation systems including state, county, and private roads.
- Implement developmental procedures for the

recreational use from Minam, Oregon to Heller Bar, Washington in regards to maximum public use.

- Develop and implement monitoring methods to determine maximum visitor use of the corridor. Continue monitoring process to insure appropriate changes in visitor use possibilities.
- Open river corridor to both motorized and non-motorized watercraft.
- Voluntary river registration for all recreational users of the Grande Ronde corridor.
- Improve river staging and camping areas to include handicap and family opportunity requirements, additional vehicle parking , boat access, and restroom facilities.
- Continue commercial permit programs for river outfitters that require one permit for all administrative jurisdictions.
- Maintain physical resources to insure the continuation and expansion of recreation based industries.
- Develop an information and education program for the public on the protection of aesthetic properties of the corridor.
- During construction projects, incorporate visual design criteria that are compatible with the corridor's characteristic landscape.
- Inventory aesthetic values in the river corridor.
- Maintenance activities will meet visual resource requirements.



**Grande Ronde River Washington Segment**  
**Alt. A/B (Preferred Alternative)**

**Cultural**

- Implement a systematic program of inventory and evaluation for cultural resources on public lands, including traditional use areas and cultural values.
- Conduct weekly patrols of all cultural resource sites and install protection signs to discourage vandalism; conduct periodic aerial and remote surveillance of highly vulnerable sites.
- Develop an information and education program for the general public on the protection of the cultural and aesthetic properties of the corridor.
- Complete baseline documentation of sensitive archaeological and historical sites.
- Develop cooperative agreements with the Nez Perce tribe to maintain the preservation of their traditions and treaty rights as well as cultural sites.
- Develop interagency, tribal, and private landowner agreements to protect cultural sites.
- Conduct annual monitoring of cultural resources on public lands in high use areas. Annually monitor sites in the Snake River National Register District.
- Restrict or exclude camping as necessary to protect cultural resource sites.
- Complete administrative or legal property surveys to protect cultural resources on

public lands from trespass and illegal actions.

**ALTERNATIVE B (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE):** Protect and/or enhance natural values. Emphasize private land owner rights.

**Public Land**

- Existing water rights will not be affected by management actions in this plan.
- Spring and fall livestock grazing of the corridor will be allowed on public land through permit licensing by the appropriate agency with individual grazing permittees.
- Seasons of use and rotation systems to disperse livestock and achieve desired utilization levels will be established through the development of grazing plans.
- Fencing, water developments and holding facilities will be developed at critical locations to assist livestock management.
- Reintroduce fire as an effective vegetative management tool through the use of prescribed burns.
- Eliminate or reduce to acceptable levels of fuel build-up and hazards that are a result of past management and/or natural catastrophic events.
- Continue present fire suppression agreements between appropriate agencies.
- Agricultural practices on public land administered by



## Grande Ronde River Washington Segment Alt. B (Preferred Alternative)

Washington Department of Wildlife will utilize current ground manipulation, herbicide, and pesticide applications for producing desired forage.

- Mineral extraction on public land will require a plan of operation, demonstrating protection of river values. Within 200 feet of the mean high water mark each side of the river mineral extraction is prohibited as directed by Asotin County Shoreline Management Plan.
- Develop intensive visitor awareness programs for river resources and user interrelationships, along with river resource policies (ie...carry in/carry out).
- Develop and implement awareness programs (ie...posters/signs/published articles) to accommodate residents and non-residents on types of river resource experiences in both seasonal periods and transportation methods.
- Develop intensive awareness programs between private landowners, users, and the general public on rights and responsibilities of all involved parties.
- Develop monitoring programs to assess large and small effects to river corridor and surrounding area. Implement any policies needed to adjust for negative sociological implications.
- Assist Asotin county in broadening the economic bases of various communities

through resource cost share and grant programs.

- Develop cooperative agreements between all involved agencies and groups.
- Implement monitoring and management practices in conformance with federal and state regulations.
- Minimize new road development on public land within the river corridor.
- Develop monitoring studies to determine possible acquisitions and easements.
- Assess cost estimate in regards to legislation and economic efficiency.
- Develop contingency plans for proper action during emergency situations.
- Develop a list of possible members for an informal problem solving work group.
- Continue existing water rights of landowners, while maintaining minimum flow requirements according to Washington Department of Fisheries and Washington Department of Wildlife.
- Implement cooperative inter-agency agreements to develop adequate law enforcement policies and patrol criteria and responsibilities of each agency.
- Implement developmental procedures for the recreational use from Minam to Heller Bar, Wash., in regards to public use.
- Develop intensive public awareness programs and signing plans to clearly



**Grande Ronde River Washington Segment  
Alt. B (Preferred Alternative)**

identify boundary lines between public and private lands.

- Agencies will not actively pursue land acquisitions. Private party initiated easement/acquisition proposals will be processed on a priority basis. Initiate a private land acquisition program from willing sellers only. No condemnation of private land will occur.
- Continue maintenance of transportation systems including state, county, and private roads.

**Private Land**

- Existing water rights will not be affected by management actions in this plan.
- Livestock watering and irrigation uses of the river will continue.
- Continue existing uses of private land within the corridor as directed by Asotin County Shoreline Regulations.
- Assess impacts of chemical application to plant and animal populations prior to use. Integrated pest management should be encouraged as an alternative to chemical application where appropriate.
- Develop agreements with County Weed Control District and Asotin County Shoreline Commission, and those agencies responsible for Threatened and Endangered plants and animals.

- Maintain existing and prescribed levels of resource utilizations in the agricultural industries.
- Assist Asotin county in broadening the economic bases of various communities through resource cost share and grant programs.
- Develop management actions within the corridor and basin to ensure the existing lifestyles of corridor residents, while protecting corridor values and public use.
- Mineral extraction on private land will require a plan of operation, demonstrating protection of river values. Within 200 feet of the mean high water mark each side of the river mineral extraction is prohibited as directed by Asotin County Shorelines Management Plan.
- Continue maintenance of transportation systems including state, county, and private roads.
- Continue existing water rights of landowners, while maintaining minimum flow requirements according to Washington Department of Fisheries.
- New transportation requirements on private land will meet Asotin county Shoreline Standards within the corridor.

**Environmental**

- Develop control systems for weeds, insects and disease to include herbicides,



## Grande Ronde River Washington Segment Alt. B (Preferred Alternative)

pesticides, fire, plowing seeding and biological controls.

- Agricultural practices on public land administered by Washington Department of Wildlife will utilize current ground manipulation, herbicide, and pesticide applications for producing desired forage.
- Develop regulations and facilities to require mandatory pack-out of human waste and garbage. River Ranger patrols will assist in corridor maintenance.
- Water quality monitoring will be conducted within the corridor to determine point and non-point source pollution.
- Assess impacts of chemical application to plant and animal populations prior to use. Integrated pest management should be encouraged as an alternative to chemical application where appropriate.
- Monitor, identify and implement programs that have the least environmental impact on the river ecosystems with emphasis on Threatened and Endangered Species and habitats. Develop agreements with County Weed Control District.
- Resource management actions within the corridor will meet minimum water quality standards as set by Washington Department of Ecology.

- Develop a water monitoring program to assist agencies and private land owners in water quality and quantity requirements for domestic water rights.
- Stipulate resource activities on public land within the corridor watershed that would have the potential to degrade water quality of quantity of the Grande Ronde River to protect those values.
- Identify sources of pollution within the corridor and correct where economically and physically feasible.
- Maximize resource activities to enhance wildlife and fish populations by utilizing instream and riparian improvement projects.
- Maintain or enhance fish and wildlife populations using current and updated management practices as determined by WDW, WDF, Nez Perce Tribe, and related agencies.
- Improve habitat requirements for species that fall under the Federal Threatened and Endangered Species Act.
- Monitor and assess fish and wildlife ecological requirements to enhance existing populations of corridor species.
- Develop cooperative agreements between agencies and private landowners for protection and enhancement of riparian habitats.
- Maintain or enhance riparian habitats through utilization of



**Grande Ronde River Washington Segment  
Alt. B (Preferred Alternative)**

current and updated management practices.

- Develop monitoring activities of corridor fish and wildlife populations to insure long term biodiversity and productivity.
- Management activities within the corridor will enhance flora, fauna and physical elements most similar to baseline conditions.
- Maintenance activities will meet visual and cultural resource requirements.

**Recreational**

- Develop and implement monitoring methods to determine visitor use of the corridor. Continue monitoring process to insure appropriate changes in visitor use possibilities in both positive and negative aspects.
- Improve river staging and camping areas to include handicap and family opportunity requirements.
- Volunteer programs will be developed to assist agencies in corridor management in all resource fields.
- Develop maintenance and improvement programs to increase public use facilities and utilities.
- Continue maintenance of transportation systems including state, county, and private roads.
- Develop monitoring studies to determine the social carrying capacity of the river corridor.

- Implement party size limitations when monitoring studies determine that social use exceeds limits of acceptable change.
- Continue commercial permit programs for river outfitters that require one permit for all administrative jurisdictions.
- Inventory aesthetic values in the river corridor.
- Develop an information and education program for the general public on the protection of aesthetic properties of the corridor.
- Maintenance activities will meet visual and cultural resource requirements. Stipulate maintenance and construction activities where damage to values is a possibility.
- Stipulate development projects, including resource commodity uses to insure that management activities are subordinate to the characteristic landscape and do not dominate the immediate viewshed.
- During recreation construction projects, incorporate visual design requirements that are compatible with the corridor's characteristic landscape.
- Continue corridor use for both motorized and non-motorized watercraft.
- Maintain physical resources to insure the continuation of recreation based industries.



Grande Ronde River Washington Segment  
Alt. B (Preferred Alternative)/Alt.C

Cultural

- Implement a systematic program of inventory and evaluation for cultural resources on public lands, including traditional use areas and cultural values.
- Conduct weekly patrols of all cultural resource sites and install protection signs to discourage vandalism; conduct periodic aerial and remote surveillance of highly vulnerable sites.
- Develop an information and education program for the general public on the protection of the cultural and aesthetic properties of the corridor.
- Complete baseline documentation of sensitive archaeological and historical sites.
- Develop cooperative agreements with the Nez Perce tribe to maintain the preservation of their traditions and treaty rights as well as cultural sites.
- Develop interagency and tribal agreements for the protection of cultural sites.
- Conduct annual monitoring of cultural resources on public lands in high use areas.
- Annually monitor sites in the Snake River National Register District.
- Restrict or exclude camping as necessary to protect cultural resource sites.
- Complete administrative or legal property surveys to protect cultural resources on

public lands from trespass and illegal actions.

**ALTERNATIVE C:** Protect and enhance natural values. Emphasize recreation opportunities compatible with resource protection.

Public Land

- Actively pursue private land acquisitions (including condemnation actions) to reserve the naturalness of the corridor.
- Initiate trespass actions on unauthorized use of public land by livestock within the corridor.
- Monitor and assess current management activities with regards to possible external sources of influence as well as within the river corridor.
- Existing water rights will not be affected by management actions in this plan.
- Continue present fire suppression agreements between appropriate agencies.
- Develop intensive visitor awareness programs for river corridor resources to promote natural value preservation.
- Mineral extraction on public land will not be allowed.
- Eliminate domestic livestock grazing within the river corridor on public land.
- Agricultural practices on public land administered by Washington Department of Wildlife will utilize current ground manipulation, herbicide, and pesticide



## Grande Ronde River Washington Segment Alt. C

- applications for producing desired forage.
- Develop a list of possible members for an informal problem solving work group.
- Assess cost estimate in regards to possible catastrophic events, legislation and economic efficiency.
- Develop contingency plans for proper action during emergency situations including catastrophic events.
- Implement monitoring and management practices in conformance with Federal and State regulations.
- Develop cooperative agreements between all involved agencies and groups.
- No new roads will be built on public land.
- Management actions are to enhance the naturalness of the corridor and could adversely affect the existing rural lifestyles of the corridor residents.
- Implement cooperative inter-agency agreements to develop adequate law enforcement policies and patrol criteria and responsibilities for each agency.

### Private Land

- Assess cost estimate in regards to possible catastrophic events, legislation and economic efficiency.

- Develop contingency plans for proper action during emergency situations including catastrophic events.
- Management actions could adversely affect the existing lifestyles of the corridor residents to maintain maximum naturalness of the corridor.
- Develop monitoring programs to assess large and small effects to the river corridor and surrounding area. Implement any policies needed to adjust for negative sociological implications.
- Eliminate domestic livestock grazing within the river corridor on public land.
- Implement management practices of resource utilization in the agricultural industries to enhance natural values.
- Implement studies to determine possible acquisition and easements to maximize corridor potential for protection of natural values.
- Existing water rights will not be affected by management actions in this plan.
- Livestock watering and irrigation uses of the river will continue.

### Environmental

- Agricultural practices on public land administered by Washington Department of Wildlife will utilize current ground manipulation, herbicide, and pesticide



Grande Ronde River Washington Segment  
Alt. C

applications for producing desired forage.

- Maintain current maintenance of transportation systems including state, county and private roads with the stipulation that maintenance activities will meet the visual and cultural resource requirements.
- No new roads will be built on public land.
- Maintenance activities will meet visual and cultural resource requirements.
- New transportation requirements on private land will meet Asotin county Shoreline standards within the corridor.
- Maximize resource activities to enhance wildlife and fish populations by utilizing instream and riparian improvement projects.
- Maintain or enhance fish and wildlife populations using current and updated management practices as determined by WDW, WDF, Nez Perce Tribe, and related agencies.
- Improve habitat requirements for species that fall under the Federal Threatened and Endangered Species Act.
- Monitor and assess fish and wildlife ecological requirements to enhance existing populations of corridor species.
- Develop cooperative agreements between Washington Department of Wildlife and private landowners for protection

and enhancement of riparian habitats.

- Maintain or enhance riparian habitats through utilization of current and updated management practices.
- Develop monitoring activities of corridor fish and wildlife populations to insure long term biodiversity and productivity.
- Management activities within the corridor will enhance flora, fauna and physical elements most similar to baseline conditions.
- Water quality monitoring will be conducted within the corridor to determine point and non-point source pollution.
- Resource management actions within the corridor will exceed minimum water quality standards as set by Washington Department of Ecology.
- Develop a water monitoring program to assist agencies and private landowners in water quality and quantity requirements for fish and wildlife enhancement.
- Identify sources of pollution within the corridor and correct where economically and physically feasible.
- Eliminate resource activities on public land within the corridor watershed that would have the potential to degrade water quality or quantity of the river.



Grande Ronde River Washington Segment  
Alt. C

Recreational

- Develop and implement monitoring methods to determine maximum visitor use of the corridor without causing habitat resource damage.
- Maintain current maintenance of transportation systems including state, county and private roads with the stipulation that maintenance activities will meet the visual and cultural resource requirements.
- Maintain river staging and camping areas along the corridor.
- Develop monitoring studies to determine the social carrying capacity of the river corridor.
- Implement party size limitations when monitoring studies determine that social use exceeds habitats ability for non-impact camping and recreational use.
- Continue commercial permit programs for river outfitters that require one permit for all administrative jurisdictions.
- Inventory and evaluate the aesthetic values along the river corridor.
- Develop an intensive information and education program for the general public on the protection of the aesthetic properties of the corridor.
- Stipulate development projects, including resource commodity uses, to insure that management activities

are subordinate to the characteristic landscape and do not dominate the immediate viewshed.

- During recreation construction projects, incorporate visual design criteria that are compatible with the corridor's characteristic landscape.
- Implement mandatory recreational permit registration, fire pans, and pack out of human waste.
- Close river corridor to motorized watercraft.

Cultural

- Implement a systematic program of inventory and evaluation for cultural resources on public lands, including traditional use areas and cultural values.
- Conduct weekly patrols of all cultural resource sites and install protection signs to discourage vandalism; conduct periodic aerial and remote surveillance of highly vulnerable sites.
- Develop an intensive information and education program for the general public on the protection of the cultural and aesthetic properties of the corridor.
- Complete baseline documentation of sensitive archaeological and historical sites.
- Develop cooperative agreements with the Nez Perce tribe to maintain the preservation of their



## Grande Ronde River Washington Segment Alt. C/D

traditions and treaty rights as well as cultural sites.

- Develop interagency, tribal, and private landowner agreements for the protection of cultural resources.
- Conduct annual monitoring of cultural resources on public lands in high use areas.
- Annually monitor sites in the Snake River National Register District.
- Restrict or exclude camping as necessary to protect cultural resource sites.
- Complete administrative or legal property surveys to protect cultural resources on public lands from trespass and illegal actions.

**ALTERNATIVE D:** No Action beyond present management direction from various agencies.

### Public Land

- Agencies will not actively pursue land acquisitions or easements.
- Cattle grazing of the corridor will be allowed on public land through permit licensing by the appropriate agency.
- Continue maintenance of transportation systems, including state, county and private roads.
- Implement management practices in conformance with to federal and state regulations.
- Minimize human impacts to wildlife habitats and

populations through public awareness programs.

- Minimize road development on public land within the river corridor.
- Maintain cooperative agreements between WDW and WDF.
- Seasons of use and rotation systems to disperse livestock and achieve desired utilization levels will be established through the development of grazing plans.
- Agricultural practices on public land administered by Washington Department of Wildlife will utilize current ground manipulation, herbicide, and pesticide applications for producing desired forage.
- Maintain management activities that will not adversely affect the existing rural lifestyles of the corridor residents.
- Manage for existing and prescribed levels of resource utilization in the agricultural industries to meet current demand.
- Existing water rights will not be affected by management actions in this plan.
- Mineral extraction is allowed within the recreation classification segments and closed to mineral extraction in the wild classification segment.
- Mineral extraction on public land will require a plan of operation, demonstrating protection of Wild and Scenic river values.



**Grande Ronde River Washington Segment  
Alt. D**

- Initiate trespass actions on unauthorized use of corridor by livestock.
- Continue present fire suppression agreements between appropriate agencies.

**Private Land**

- Existing water rights will not be affected by management actions in this plan.
- Continue maintenance of transportation systems, including state, county and private roads.
- Minimize road development on public land within the river corridor.
- Develop management actions within the corridor and basin to insure the existing lifestyles of corridor residents, while maintaining current corridor conditions.
- Manage for existing and prescribed levels of resource utilization in the agricultural industries to meet current demand.
- Livestock watering and irrigation uses of the river will continue.

**Environmental**

- Agricultural practices on public land administered by Washington Department of Wildlife will utilize current ground manipulation, herbicide, and pesticide applications for producing desired forage.
- Resource management actions will maintain the

current water quality of the river corridor.

- Maintain habitats for all species that fall under the Federal Threatened and Endangered Species Act.
- Implement management practices in conformance with Federal and State regulations.

**Recreational**

- Maintain the existing river facilities at Boggan's and Heller Bar to serve as a visitor contact station.
- Voluntary river registration for all recreation users of the river corridor.
- Inventory aesthetic values along the river corridor.
- Stipulate maintenance and construction activities to protect aesthetic values.
- Continue the commercial permit program for river outfitters that requires one permit for all administrative jurisdictions.
- Voluntary use of fire pans and pack out of human waste.

**Cultural**

- Implement a systematic program of inventory and evaluation for cultural resources on public lands, including traditional use areas and cultural values.
- Conduct periodic patrols of all cultural resource sites and install protection signs to discourage vandalism.



## Grande Ronde River Washington Segment Alt. D/Impacts of Alternatives

- Complete baseline documentation of sensitive archaeological and historical sites.
- Develop cooperative agreements with the Nez Perce tribe to maintain the preservation of their traditions and treaty rights as well as cultural sites.
- Conduct annual monitoring of sensitive cultural resources on public lands in high use areas. Annually monitor sites in the Snake River National Register District.
- Complete administrative or legal property surveys to protect cultural resources on public lands from trespass and illegal actions.

### Impacts of Alternatives

#### Public Land

Alternative A: Through a rotational system of grazing, some of the effects of grazing would be reduced. However, by maintaining corridor grazing, the condition of the riparian areas, campsite and shoreline cleanliness and soil compaction due to use would be damaging. Through continued use, unprotected springs and seep areas would continue to be damaged by soil compaction and erosion. The development of holding facilities for water at critical locations would concentrate cattle activity to a specific area and therefore magnify the damage done in that location.

The reintroduction of fire as a vegetative management tool would have only temporary effects to the corridor viewshed. Although the visual aesthetics would be

reduced for a short period of time, the reduction of fuel buildup along with new growth would significantly increase the corridor's riparian and forest health. In addition, by continuing current fire suppression agreements between BLM and appropriate agencies, catastrophic fire occurrences can be controlled or eliminated.

Mineral extraction along the corridor will have a minimal impact on the viewshed. By requiring a plan of operation for the protection of the corridor's river values, the current resource conditions will continue.

The development of intensive visitor awareness, and signing programs will improve interrelationships between users, private landowners, and all other involved agencies. This improvement will help minimize human impacts to the corridor and increase recreational opportunity awareness for both local and non-local residents. By assisting Asotin county in the form of cost share and grant programs will also improve relationships with the involved communities.

Agricultural practices administered by WDW will stabilize resource values of the corridor through the use of ground manipulation, herbicide, and pesticide applications. These efforts implemented by WDW will increase the amount and quality of desired forage for both domestic and wildlife grazing, therefore improving desired aesthetics for the public entity.

Cooperative agreements between all involved parties will also be implemented for the protection of the riparian habitats located within the corridor. These agreements will help maintain current Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). All of these



## Grande Ronde River Washington Segment Impacts of Alternatives

management practices must follow local, county, state, and federal regulations. The protection of these areas will ensure the health of the corridor.

By developing studies to determine if private land acquisition is required within the corridor, agencies will be able to develop acquisition and easement programs commensurate with resource values. This will keep land acquisitions by public agencies at a minimum level.

The implementation of cooperative inter-agency agreements for the development of adequate law enforcement programs, through the use of emergency contingency plans, informal problem solving work groups, and river patrols, protection of the corridor resources as well as those who use the corridor will be enhanced.

Maintaining the current transportation systems including state, county, and private roads as well as the development of new roads will increase the opportunities and access for recreational use.

Alternative B (Preferred Alternative): Development of rotational grazing plans, fencing, and water holding facilities at critical locations will assist livestock management. Implementing these management techniques will improve the quantity and quality of forage vegetation and the availability of water on land that is appropriately licensed.

The reintroduction of fire as an effective vegetative management tool, and to eliminate or reduce to acceptable levels of fuel build-up will also aid the private landowner. Through the use of prescribed burns, the quality and quantity of desired cattle forage vegetation will be significantly improved. Cooperative fire suppression agreements between appropriate agencies

will aid in the protection of the corridor in ensuring vegetative health by preventing untimely natural burns.

By developing and implementing studies to determine private land acquisition and easement needs to ensure resource protection within the corridor, only those private lands with high river values would be considered in an acquisition program. This acquisition program would only be undertaken with willing parties.

Monitoring programs designed to assess the negative impacts of management practices on surrounding communities will improve the relationships between managing agencies and the local populations. Aiming for the reduction of the negative impacts to the local populace will increase management awareness and cooperation of said population.

Developing recreation facilities and improving access from Minam, OR., to Heller Bar, WA., will improve the recreational opportunity of river users. This implementation will provide a more complete program in the form of use, information, law enforcement, and help to reduce the conflicts between recreational users and private landowners.

Implementation of cooperative agreements between agencies to develop adequate law enforcement policies and patrol criteria in conformance with federal and state regulations will ensure that the regulations involved with river use are being observed.

The development of visitor awareness programs to improve the interrelationships between users and landowners would be beneficial to both parties. By improving the knowledge of the public and landowners on rights, responsibilities of corridor use, and location of private land



## Grande Ronde River Washington Segment Impacts of Alternatives

along the corridor, altercations and misunderstanding between those parties would be reduced.

The implementation of contingency plans and problem solving work groups for the protection of public land and natural values will help to ensure the health of the corridor.

Continuation of current transportation systems including county, state and private roads, minimizing new road construction, and stipulating new transportation requirements on private land to meet Asotin County Shoreline guidelines will also maintain the current use and availability of the corridor to the residents.

The development of cooperative agreements between all involved agencies in conformance with federal and state regulations will improve the management potential of the corridor.

Assisting Asotin county in broadening their economic base through the use of resource cost share and grant programs will increase public awareness and involvement with management programs.

The impacts from agricultural practices will be the same as Alternative A.

The Impacts from mineral extraction will be the same as Alternative A.

**Alternative C:** Removal of all livestock from the public land within the corridor would result in an improvement in riparian soil condition. Eliminating adverse impacts caused by grazing livestock would allow for the recovery of vegetation species which have been suppressed by livestock use.

The development of intensive visitor awareness programs will inform the public on existing natural values and protection measures necessary to maintain those values. This information program will help to included public responsibility for that protection, and therefore increase the health and well being of those values.

Agricultural practices administered by WDW will be limited to ground manipulation for producing the desired forage. The effect on corridor health will still be of a positive nature, but the response by the corridor environment will be slow because of the limitation of improvement methods.

By eliminating new road development, the publics ability to reach the different recreational opportunities will remain as it presently exists. This action would hamper the recreational potential of the corridor.

The continuation of present fire suppression agreements will attempt to ensure that catastrophic damage from corridor located fires will be kept to a minimum.

The implementation of cooperative agreements to develop adequate law enforcement will be the same as Alternative B.

Eliminating mineral extraction action within the corridor would remove the possibility of damage from mining and exploration on the viewshed.

Existing water rights under this alternative would continue. This continuation should have little or no affect on the natural values of the corridor



## Grande Ronde River Washington Segment Impacts of Alternatives

The establishment of cooperative agreements between all involved agencies in conformance with federal and state regulations will be the same as Alternative B.

The development of contingency plans and informal problem solving work groups will have the same Impact as Alternative B.

By developing and implementing studies to determine private land acquisition and easements within the corridor, acquisitions and/or easements could have a detrimental affects on corridor residents if private landowners do not wish to participate.

The establishment of monitoring programs to assess the impact of management practices both inside and outside the corridor will ensure that positive as well as negative effects of management activities are adjusted.

The assessment of plan implementation estimates in regards to possible catastrophic events, legislation and economic efficiency will ensure that the management plans and actions have the potential to be affective.

All management actions will enhance the naturalness of the corridor and will alter the lifestyles of corridor residents. By an active pursuit of land acquisition, current lifestyles of the corridor residents cannot be maintained.

Alternative D: By continuing current fire suppression agreements between BLM and appropriate agencies, the present ability to control catastrophic fire occurrences will be maintained.

The minimization of road construction would decrease the access required by increased visitor use.

The impacts from cattle grazing and rotation systems of grazing will be the same as Alternative A, except that under this alternative the initiating of aggressive trespass actions will be implemented on unauthorized use of the corridor.

Under this alternative the land acquisition/easement program would not change from the current management. Agencies will only pursue acquisition from private parties who initiate the land transactions.

The continuation of mineral extraction within the recreational areas of the corridor will maintain the threat of land damage if large mineral deposits are discovered. Although all mining will require a plan of operation demonstrating protection of river values, the damage to natural values and primitiveness of the river corridor will be seriously affected.

The continuation of use of private land within the corridor, as directed by Asotin county zoning and the Asotin County Shoreline administrative rules, in the form of agricultural utilization will help to maintain the current lifestyles of the corridor residents. Managing those activities with regards to maintaining the physical resources will also ensure the increase of recreational based industries.

The development of intensive visitor awareness programs will inform the public on recreational opportunities and requirements to minimize human impacts. This information program will help to included public responsibility for the protection, health and well being of those values.

The maintenance of transportation systems and utility, including county, state, and



## Grande Ronde River Washington Segment Impacts of Alternatives

private roads will be the same as Alternative A.

The impacts from continuation existing water rights will be the same as Alternative C.

The impacts from agricultural practices administered by WDW will be the same as Alternative A.

The development of cooperative agreements between all involved agencies will be the same as Alternative A.

### Private Land

Alternative A: By maintaining management action to continue the uses of private land as directed by Asotin County Shoreline Regulations, continuing existing water rights, livestock watering and irrigation practices will ensure that no adverse impacts will occur to the lifestyles of corridor residents.

Alternative B (Preferred Alternative): The impacts to existing water rights would be the same as Alternative A.

The impacts to livestock watering and irrigation would be the same as Alternative A.

The continuation of use of private land within the corridor, as directed by Asotin County Shoreline Committee, in the form of agricultural utilization, will help to maintain the current lifestyles of the corridor residents. Managing those activities with regards to maintaining the physical resources will also ensure the increase of recreational based industries.

The impacts to existing rural lifestyles will be the same as Alternative A.

Assessing the implications of chemical applications to plant and animal species will help to ensure that no accidental damage to either values could occur from this application. By careful chemical applications or integrated pest management processes, the environmental health of the corridor can be improved.

Monitoring and implementing programs that affect the corridors ecosystems the least will ensure that no catastrophic accidents will occur to threatened and endangered species located within the corridor. Agreements with the County Weed District will aid in this action. The impacts from this action should have little or no affect the use of private land along the corridor.

The impacts from assisting Asotin county in broadening their economic base will be the same as Alternative A.

Continuation of current transportation and utility systems including county, state and private roads, watering of domestic livestock, existing water rights, and acquisition will occur from willing private landowners only. No condemnation of land will occur. This action will help to ensure the continuation of existing lifestyles of the corridor residents.

Alternative C: The development of contingency plans will aid in response to and prevention of catastrophic occurrences within the corridor.

The impact of existing water rights will be the same as in Alternative A.

The implementation of acquisition and easement studies to maximize natural value protection will aid in ensuring that all valuable resource characteristics will be included within the corridor boundaries.



## Grande Ronde River Washington Segment Impacts of Alternatives

Removal of all livestock from the public land within the corridor would result in a significant improvement in riparian vegetation, shoreline and soil condition. Eliminating adverse impacts caused by grazing livestock would allow for the recovery of vegetation species which have been suppressed by livestock use.

The management of this alternative will affect the lifestyles of the corridor residents. Through grazing restrictions, river value enhancement, and active land acquisition, it will be difficult for current residents to continue with the livelihoods that they now maintain (ie...agricultural & ranching industries).

The assessment of plan implementation estimates in regards to possible catastrophic events, legislation and economic efficiency will ensure that the management plans and actions have the potential to be affective.

By developing management monitoring programs to assess negative impacts to the corridors surrounding communities, alternate policies can be incorporated to decrease these negative effects. This action will increase the positive relationship between the managing agencies and the public.

The implementation of management practices of agricultural resource utilization to enhance natural values will limit the adverse affects to the corridor. Although the damage to the natural state of the corridor will occur to some extent, stipulating the practices to maintain the naturalness should minimize the impacts.

Alternative D: The impacts to existing lifestyles, corridor based agricultural industries, livestock watering and irrigation will be the same as Alternative B.

The minimization of new road construction within the corridor along with continued maintenance of transportation systems will maintain the current level of access for private landowners and recreational users to reach necessary areas.

Maintenance of current transportational systems including county, state, and private roads will ensure the current utilization levels by corridor residents and landowners along with recreational users.

### Environmental

Alternative A: Although developing cooperative agreements between WDW & WDF and private landowners, and stipulating management activities to maintain flora, fauna, and physical elements, will undoubtedly help to protect populations and health that now exist, no improvement programs will occur. This will stagnate the current populations. With the increase in recreational use, these maintenance activities will not be able to continue to offset the impacts from the increased numbers and occurrence of that use.

The impacts from the maintenance of habitat requirements for fish and wildlife populations as well as threatened and endangered species will neither benefit nor deter those population numbers. By simply maintaining the required habitats, those species populations, both sensitive and non-sensitive, will fail to increase. In the case of threatened and endangered species, this stagnation will defeat the purpose of the Threatened and Endangered Species Act which is to improve the populations of those listed species to the point of removing them from the endangered list. Though the goal of this alternative is to maintain the habitats of species that fall under the Threatened and Endangered Species Act, the increased use



## Grande Ronde River Washington Segment Impacts of Alternatives

along the corridor would have the opposite affect. Adverse impacts to both plant and animal species would result from increased levels of recreation use, especially camping, motorized and non-motorized boating. Primary impacts would occur as a result of disturbance to the animals as well as habitat damage in both aquatic and riparian habitats.

The voluntary use of fire pans and packing out of human waste will help aid in decreasing the accumulation and degradation of the corridor only to the amount of involvement undertaken by the public. If public involvement is slight, then the current degrading trend within the corridor will continue.

The impacts from establishing control systems for weed, insects, and disease through the use of herbicides, pesticides, fire, plowing/seeding and biological controls in combination with agricultural practices administered by WDW will benefit the corridor by improving desired vegetation, forage quality and increase the riparian health.

Under this alternative, the quality of the water located in the corridor would be greatly improved. Through water quality monitoring programs designed to meet minimum standards of the WDE, resource activity stipulations, and pollution suppression/control projects, the quality of the water resource of the corridor will be significantly enhanced.

Stipulating the development of new transportation systems on private land will help to decrease the adverse affects that such construction would have on the corridor vegetation and viewshed.

**Alternative B (Preferred Alternative):** The impacts from establishing control systems

for weed, insects, and disease through the use of herbicides, pesticides, fire, plowing/seeding and biological controls in combination with agricultural practices administered by WDW will benefit the corridor by improving desired vegetation, forage quality and increase the riparian health. This improvement will also benefit the private landowner who has legal authority to let cattle graze the corridor.

The agricultural practices administered by WDW will create an increase in quality and quantity of desired forage species. This increase will improve the visual condition and health of the corridor riparian areas, wildlife, and domestic grazing populations as well.

The impacts from establishing water quality monitoring programs will be the same as Alternative A.

The impacts from pollution identification and correction programs will be the same as Alternative A.

The impacts from management actions to enhance flora, fauna and physical elements will be the same as Alternative A.

The impacts from maintenance activities on cultural and visual requirements will be the same as Alternative A.

The impacts from establishing new transportation on private land will be the same as Alternative A.

The development of mandatory pack out of human waste and garbage will significantly decrease the indiscriminate waste accumulation within the river corridor. This action will improve corridor health.

Assessing the implications of chemical applications to plant and animal species



## Grande Ronde River Washington Segment Impacts of Alternatives

will ensure that no accidental damage to either values could occur from this application. By careful chemical applications or integrated pest management processes, the environmental health of the corridor can be improved for both wildlife and domestic populations.

Monitoring and implementing programs that least affect the corridors ecosystems will insure that no catastrophic accidents will occur to threatened and endangered species located within the corridor. Agreements with the County Weed District will aid in this action.

By maximizing resource activities, such as riparian and instream improvement projects, to meet the requirements of fish and wildlife populations will increase or enhance the visual aesthetics of those values. With the development of cooperative agreements between agencies and landowners for the protection and improvement of these values using current and updated management practices as determined by WDW & WDF, will continue to stabilize resources within the corridor.

Implementing the improvement of habitat requirements for species that fall under the Threatened and Endangered Species Act will help to ensure the survival of those species found within the river corridor. By establishing monitoring programs to update the habitat requirements for these and other species within the corridor will help ensure the long term biodiversity and productivity of sensitive and non-sensitive species.

The establishment of management actions to enhance flora, fauna, and physical elements will improve the overall condition of the corridor for both wildlife and plant populations.

Stipulating new transportation developments on private land to meet Asotin county Shoreline Standards will slightly hinder private landowners if need arises for new road construction.

Alternative C: The impacts from agricultural practices administered by WDW will be the same as the Preferred Alternative.

The impacts from maintaining visual and cultural requirements will be positive on the corridor condition. By maintaining these requirements, the existing naturalness of the corridors river values will be protected and enhanced.

The impacts from new transportation systems on private land will be the same as the Alternative A.

Maintenance of current transportation systems including county, state and private roads, and eliminating new road construction, will maintain the current natural values of the corridor.

The impacts from the enhancement of habitat requirements for fish and wildlife populations as well as threatened and endangered species will be extremely beneficial to those populations. By improving the required habitats, those species populations, both sensitive and non-sensitive, will show a significant increase. In the case of threatened and endangered species, this increase could improve the populations of those listed species to the point of removing them from the endangered list.

The impacts from management activities to improve flora, fauna, and physical elements of the corridor will be beneficial to the corridor. Enhancement of these



## Grande Ronde River Washington Segment Impacts of Alternatives

characteristics will increase the visual aesthetics and naturalness of the corridor.

The impacts from establishing water quality monitoring programs, and pollution identification/correction will be the same as Alternative A.

Alternative D: This alternative would maintain the existing conditions within the river corridor.

The impacts from agricultural practices administered by WDW will be the same as Alternative B.

By establishing of management actions to maintain current water quality within the corridor will continue on the trend of increased water degradation.

The impacts from the maintenance of habitat requirements for threatened and endangered species will neither benefit nor deter those population numbers. By simply maintaining the required habitats, those species populations will fail to increase. In the case of threatened and endangered species, this stagnation will defeat the purpose of the Threatened and Endangered Species Act which is to improve the populations of those listed species to the point of removing them from the endangered list.

Implementing management practices in conformance with federal and state regulations will ensure that all of the requirements necessary for the river corridor are met under an official and authorized management program.

### Recreational

Alternative A: Improving the river staging and camping areas to include handicap and family opportunity requirements, additional

vehicle parking, boat access, and restroom facilities would create a more diverse recreational area. These improvements would increase visitor recreation by increasing the different opportunities and desires of users.

Opening the river to both motorized and non-motorized watercraft would increase the availability for the different uses of the corridor causing an increase in the recreational use and user conflicts.

Maintaining the existing river facilities at Boggan's and Heller Bar will continue to serve as a contact point for the public. But in their current condition, public information capabilities are extremely limited.

Maintaining current transportational methods and increasing new road development will aid the recreational user by improving access, and availability of the river corridor. With the development of new access roads, it could be possible for recreational users to reach specific points within the corridor (ie..The Narrows, Line Falls, etc.).

Developing recreation facilities and improving access from Minam, Oregon to Heller Bar, Washington will greatly increase the user visitation along the corridor. This implementation will provide a more complete program in the form of use, information, law enforcement, and recreational opportunities. Developing more complete and uniform corridor management programs will increase the user awareness of management practices.

Increasing developmental procedures from Minam, OR., to Heller Bar, WA., will improve the recreational opportunity of river users. Continuation of commercial permit programs for river outfitters that



## Grande Ronde River Washington Segment Impacts of Alternatives

require one permit for all administrative jurisdictions along with voluntary river registration for all recreational users will help with the visitor awareness programs and implementation of river policies (ie..pack in/pack out).

Maintenance of physical resources will ensure the visual aesthetics and appeal of the corridor to recreational users.

Monitoring of visitor use levels will enable management activities to adjust for negative and positive impacts to the corridor in relation to visitor numbers.

Under this alternative the current commercial permit and voluntary recreational registration programs will continue. The information gathered from these programs will aid management agencies with the amount of visitor use and corridor health in comparison to that use.

Alternative B (Preferred Alternative): The impacts from visitor use monitoring would enable management agencies to adjust activities if a negative impact should begin to affect the natural values or private landowners found within the corridor.

Determination of carrying capacities and possible party size limitations would affect the recreational use of the corridor. Limiting party size would affect the recreation experience of both motorized and non-motorized boaters, resulting in a net loss of recreation opportunities for those having boats capable of carrying more people. However, limiting party size for motorized and non-motorized users would control or prohibit the use of larger boats and tour groups. This would have a slightly beneficial impact on the overall recreation experience of other users

The establishment of river staging areas, camping, and information improvements will be of a negative impact. These improvements will increase the amount of visitor use and therefore increase the amount of conflict between private landowner interests and recreational interests. Improving the information and education program will help to reduce this conflict through visitor awareness, nevertheless the conflicts will continue.

The impacts from continuation of the commercial permit programs for the river outfitters will be the same as Alternative A.

The impacts from motorized and non-motorized watercraft will be the same as Alternative A.

The impacts from the maintenance of physical resources on recreation based industries will be the same as Alternative A.

The development of volunteer programs will be an important asset to the management of the corridor. By performing routine patrols, these volunteers will be able to ensure that all management policies are being observed and maintained.

Continuing current transportation and utility maintenance will keep access to the river corridor in its present state, and not disturb the currently existing natural values of the corridor. Stipulating new road construction on private land to meet Asotin county Shoreline Regulations will also keep the visual aesthetics of the corridor undamaged. This continuation/maintenance will ensure that private landowners will retain the ability of corridor access.



## Grande Ronde River Washington Segment Impacts of Alternatives

Alternative C: The establishment of monitoring methods to determine maximum visitor use or carrying capacity and implementation of party size limitations will help to maintain the maximum possible use of the corridor without damage to the natural aspects of the corridor.

Maintenance of current transportation systems will continue the existing access of the corridor use. Stipulation of these activities to meet visual/cultural requirements will also maintain corridor health and visual appearance.

The implementation of mandatory recreational permit registration, fire pans, pack out of human waste, and continuation of commercial permit program will increase the appeal and health of the corridor. The enforcement of these actions will eliminate the indiscriminate disposal of human waste and also give an accurate account of visitor use. This information will allow managing agencies to adjust to changes in recreational use in regards to the naturalness of the corridor.

Maintaining existing staging and camping areas would cause more trampling, bank erosion and vegetation loss, also resulting in further degradation of fish and wildlife habitat. By determining the social carrying capacity of the corridor and limiting boat numbers or group size would result in decrease in numbers of river users. This decreased use would result in fewer disturbances to wildlife and less degradation of wildlife habitat. In addition, allowing camping at all existing sites would result in a continuation of significant, adverse impacts on riparian soil and vegetation, in turn resulting in degradation of fish and wildlife habitat.

Banning motorized watercraft from the corridor would cause a significant decrease

in adverse impacts to wildlife resulting from motorized recreation use. By eliminating motorized use, the disturbance and displacement of animals (ie..bald eagle) along the corridor would be greatly reduced.

Alternative D: Maintenance of the existing river administrative facilities at Boggan's and Heller Bar will severely limit the information ability of the managing agencies. Without improvement of those facilities, the knowledge acquired by the public will remain random and informal. Without proper understanding by river users, any management activity undertaken will be significantly handicapped.

Under this alternative the current commercial permit program and voluntary recreational registration program, and voluntary pack out of human waste will continue. The information gathered from these programs will aid management agencies in regards to visitor use and impacts on corridor health. Without firmer restrictions on corridor use in the form of mandatory registration and pack out of human waste, the continued degradation of the corridor through indiscriminate disposal of waste will continue. Without complete information on the recreational use of the river, management actions designed around those numbers will be ineffective.

### Cultural

Alternative A: Development associated with maximization of resource uses, increased visitor use and improved access (motorized craft and new road construction) in the river corridor would result in increased incidents of vandalism to cultural resources. Developing cooperative tribal, landowner and law



## Grande Ronde River Washington Segment Impacts of Alternatives

enforcement agreements, signing public lands, information and education programs, systematic inventories and gathering of baseline documentation, intensive patrols and regular monitoring of cultural resources would be beneficial to the protection of cultural resources.

### Alternative B (Preferred Alternative):

Continued motorized river access and maximizing opportunities for recreation uses would result in increased incidents of vandalism. Limiting grazing to spring use would minimize impacts from trampling, and would be beneficial to protection of cultural resources. Minimizing new road developments, in conjunction with programs for interagency/tribal agreements, law enforcement, education, intensive patrol and signing would increase cultural resource protection.

Alternative C: Maximum protection for cultural resources is provided by this alternative. Exclusion of motorized river access, no new roads, and resource use restrictions will reduce incidents of vandalism. Elimination of livestock grazing will reduce trampling on cultural sites. Law enforcement and landowner agreements; education and inventory/monitoring programs; and intensive, weekly patrols would be beneficial to the protection of resources in the river corridor.

Alternative D: Periodic patrols, limited project monitoring, and project-initiated inventories will provide some protection to sensitive resources located in high use zones, but will lead to gradual loss of cultural values and archaeological/historical site integrity to both natural forces and unauthorized human-caused action. Lack of public land signing, law enforcement, and cooperative agreement programs would encourage illegal activities adversely

affecting cultural resources on federal lands.



## CHAPTER 4 - Oregon State Scenic Waterway Administrative Rules



## **OREGON SCENIC WATERWAY PROGRAM**

### **Background**

The Oregon Scenic Waterway Act was established by a ballot initiative in 1970. The original Oregon Scenic Waterways system created by the Act included 496 free-flowing miles of six rivers.

Rivers can be added to the system through designation by the Governor or the legislature. Such actions have added significant mileage of five rivers, as well as Waldo Lake, to the Scenic Waterways system since passage of the original Act.

Rivers can also be added to the system by the citizens of Oregon. In 1988, Oregon voters passed the Oregon Rivers Initiative (Ballot Measure #7), which added 573 river miles to the system. These additions included the Willowa River from its confluence with the Minam River at the hamlet of Minam to its confluence with the Grande Ronde at Rondowa, and the Grande Ronde River from Rondowa to the Oregon-Washington state line. There is now one lake and segments of 19 rivers (1148 miles), in the State Scenic Waterways system.

### **Program Goals**

The scenic waterway program promotes cooperative protection and wise use of rivers in the system by all agencies (federal, state, and local), individual property owners, and recreation users. Program goals are:

- To protect the free-flowing character of designated rivers for fish, wildlife, and recreation. No dams, reservoirs, impoundments, or placer mining activities are allowed on scenic waterways.

- To protect and enhance scenic, aesthetic, natural, recreation, scientific, and fish and wildlife values along scenic waterways. New development or changes of existing uses proposed within a scenic waterway are reviewed before they may take place.
- To protect private property rights. The Act discourages unsightly structures or inappropriate development that could be a nuisance to neighboring landowners or even depreciate property values. It prohibits pollution and the disturbance of adjacent surface lands by placer mining. It also prohibits public use of private property without explicit consent of the landowner.
- To promote expansion of the scenic waterway system. The Act sets up a process for adding new rivers to the system and establishes criteria for candidate rivers.
- To encourage other local, state, and federal agencies to act consistently with the goals of the program. Oregon State Parks reviews plans and decisions made by other agencies to ensure consistency with the scenic waterways program.

### **Administration**

Scenic waterways are administered under the authority of the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission (ORS 390.805 to ORS 390-925). Administrative rules (OAR 736-40-005 to 736-40-095) have



been adopted to govern the program (see Appendix G). In addition to the general rules governing the program, specific rules are generated for management of each river segment in the system. These rules are created through the management planning process, and tailored to the actions necessary to maintain the existing character of the designated river corridor.

The Act and the Commission's rules require the evaluation of proposed land use changes within one-quarter mile from each side of the river for their potential impacts on aesthetic and scenic values, as viewed from the river. Property owners wanting to build roads or houses, develop mines, harvest timber, or other similar projects, must provide written notification to the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department. Parks evaluation of the project will be coordinated with other natural resource agencies (federal and state) having regulatory responsibility and with the local jurisdiction. Parks relies on its river classification and administrative rules for each segment of the scenic waterway to determine whether the proposed project is incompatible or inconsistent with the designated classification. State Parks will work with the landowner to reach a mutually satisfactory resolution of any conflicts. Where such a resolution cannot be reached, the Commission must decide within one year of the original notification whether to pay the property owner for the land or the development rights. If the Commission does not decide within one year to acquire the land or development rights, then the landowner may proceed in accordance with the original development proposal.

Other local and state agencies must comply with the scenic waterway law and rules. Parks also works closely with federal agencies to assure their actions are compatible with scenic waterway law, rule, and resource management

recommendations.

### **The Management Planning Process**

The goal of the scenic waterway management planning process is to develop a comprehensive and workable management plan which will protect or enhance the special attributes of the designated river corridor. Primary emphasis is the protection of aesthetic, scenic, fish and wildlife, scientific and recreational features. The intent is to maintain the scenic "status quo" condition of the area, without "turning back the clock" on existing land uses. The mechanisms for protection and enhancement include:

**River Classification** - Within the management plan, scenic waterways are classified into one or more of six possible classifications, according to the character of the landscape and the amount and type of development.

**Administrative Rules** - Once the classifications are set, specific guidelines for new development are established as rules.

**Other Management Recommendations** - These are suggestions for actions to protect corridor values, to be implemented by persons or agencies other than State Parks.

### **Scenic Waterway Classification**

Under Oregon law (ORS 390.845 - Functions of the department; use of adjacent lands), the scenic waterway program is administered by the State Parks and Recreation Commission, and staffed by the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks Department is required to protect the aesthetic, scenic, fish and wildlife, scientific and recreation features based on special attributes of each river area. The Parks Department



strives to protect special attributes of the river while recognizing existing land uses and management practices on adjacent lands.

In order to define and achieve management goals, the river is classified into one or more of six possible classifications, according to the present level of land development or landscape alterations. Once the classifications are set, appropriate guidelines for new development or landscape alterations are established as rules. The aim of the program is to maintain the existing scenic condition of the river.

The following are existing land use and land alteration conditions usually associated with each of the six river classifications; and how each kind of classification should be administered (managed) in scenic waterways:

1. Natural River Areas are generally inaccessible except by trail or river, with primitive or minimally developed shorelands. Preservation and enhancement of the primitive character of these areas is the goal of this and the next two classifications.
2. Accessible Natural River Areas are relatively primitive, undeveloped areas with access by railroad or lightly traveled road.
3. Natural Scenic View Areas are designated where one riverbank is inaccessible, undeveloped or primitive in character while the opposite bank is accessible and developed.

4. Scenic River Areas may be accessible by roads, but are largely undeveloped and primitive except for agriculture and grazing. River segments considered "Scenic" are managed to maintain or enhance their high scenic quality, recreation value, fishery and wildlife habitat. The intent is to preserve their largely undeveloped character while allowing continuing agricultural uses.

5. Recreational River Areas are readily accessible by road or railroad, with some agricultural, commercial and/or residential development along the banks; the river may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past. River segments considered "Recreational" are managed to allow continuance of compatible river-oriented public outdoor recreation opportunities, to the extent that these do not substantially impair the natural beauty of the scenic waterway or diminish its aesthetic, fish and wildlife, scientific and recreational values.

6. River Community Areas are river segments where the density (residential tract or platted subdivision) of existing structures or other developments precludes application of a more restrictive classification. River segments considered "Community Areas" are managed to allow



development that is compatible with county zoning and blends into the natural character of the surrounding landscape. This also means protecting riparian vegetation, and encouraging activities that enhance the landscape.

The rules established for each river classification generally allow some new construction and continued use of existing structures and improvements. Though some improvements require notification, review and approval, many others do not.

For example, notification and approval is not generally needed for construction of new fences; maintenance of farm buildings, fences or outbuildings; laying of irrigation lines; crop rotation; removal of danger trees; construction of grain storage facilities under certain conditions; maintenance of existing residences and outbuildings; minor residential remodeling; construction of garages adjacent to existing homes; certain changes in homesite landscaping; maintenance of roads and bridges; and firewood cutting for personal use.

Mining, road building, construction of most new structures, placement of mobile homes, land clearing and timber harvest are examples of activities requiring approval. River classifications and the associated rules or guidelines determine how the natural and scenic beauty of the river will be maintained.

#### **Wallowa River Scenic Waterway Land Management Program**

##### **Proposed Classification**

The Parks Department proposes to apply three classifications to the Wallowa River Scenic Waterway.

#### **Minam River Community Area**

Existing development at Minam includes a small store, a motel, a private residence, a mobile home used as headquarters for the BLM river rangers, a graveled parking lot and a boat ramp. This entire area, zoned Rural Service on the Wallowa County zoning map, is classified as a River Community Area. The management goal is to allow further development while ensuring that the development's visual effect from the river is unobtrusive.

#### **Recreational River Area**

From the north boundary of the Minam River Community Area to the north boundary of Minam State Park, the river is classified as a Recreational River Area. This segment, approximately two miles long, provides both land-based and river-based recreation. The maintained gravel road to the State Park provides easy access to the entire segment for boaters, hunters, anglers, hikers, picnickers, campers and swimmers. The management goal is to preserve the area's recreational quality and ensure that any new developments are unobtrusive.

#### **Accessible Natural River Area**

From the north boundary of the Recreational River Area to the Wallowa's confluence with the Grande Ronde, the river is classified as an Accessible Natural River Area. This segment, about 8 miles long, is the least developed portion of the Wallowa scenic waterway.

Visible from the river are a few primitive, private roads high on the slopes, the railroad track on the bank, a power line, and a railroad bridge and older structures at Rondowa. Harvesting timber has been a normal and continuing activity in this area and its visual impact, for the most part, has been minimal. These are localized, and the overall impression is primitive and isolated. The management



goal is to maintain the primitive character of the landscape.

## **Proposed Land Management Rules**

### **1. River Community Area**

That segment of the Wallowa River adjacent to the area zoned Rural Service by Wallowa County.

**Rule:** This River Community Area will be administered consistent with the standards set by OAR 736-40-035 (see Appendix G). In addition to these standards, all new development must comply with Wallowa and Union County land use regulations.

New mining operations and similar improvements shall be permitted only when they are substantially screened from view from the river by topography or native vegetation. If inadequate topographic or vegetative screening exists on a site, mining and similar forms of development may be permitted if vegetation is established which would provide substantial screening on the affected area. The condition of "substantial vegetative screening" shall consist of an ample density and mixture of evergreen and deciduous vegetation (preferably native) to totally obscure, or allow only a highly filtered view of the altered improvement site.

If land is to remain in forest use, visible timber harvest may be allowed provided that: 1) the operation complies with the relevant Forest Practices Act rules, 2) harvest methods with low visual impact are used and 3) the effect of the harvest enhances the scenic view within a reasonable time (5-10 years). Tree harvest operations for commercial purposes and/or improving timber stand health shall maintain or enhance scenic views of forest lands by emulating the mosaic character of the natural forest landscape (pre-forest management stocking patterns). New roads constructed for timber harvest or mining will be partially screened, either with vegetation or topography. If inadequate topography or vegetative screening exists, the road may be permitted if native vegetation is established to provide partial screening of the road within a reasonable period (for example, 4-5 years). The condition of "partial vegetative screening" shall consist of an ample density and mixture of native evergreen and/or deciduous vegetation to allow a moderately filtered view (at least 30% filtering) of the road.

Improvements needed for public recreation use or resource protection may be visible from the river, but must be designed to blend



with the natural character of the landscape.

## **2. Recreational River Area**

That segment of the Wallowa River from the River Community Area to the north boundary of Minam State Park.

This Recreational River Area will be administered consistent with the standards set by OAR 736-40-035 (see Appendix G). In addition to these standards, all new development in resource zones (i.e. farm and forest related dwellings) must comply with Wallowa and Union County land use regulations. New structures and improvements (except as provided under OAR 736-40-030 (5)) will be partially screened with native vegetation and/or existing topography.

If inadequate topography or vegetative screening exists on a site, the structure or improvement may be permitted if vegetation (preferably native vegetation) is established to provide partial screening of the proposed structure or improvement within a reasonable time (for example, 4-5 years). The condition of "partial vegetative screening" shall consist of an ample density and mixture of evergreen and deciduous vegetation to partially obscure (at least 30% of) the viewed improvement or structure, or allow a

moderately filtered view (at least 30% filtering) of the proposed structure or improvement.

New mining operations and similar improvements shall be permitted only when they are substantially screened from view from the river by topography or native vegetation. If inadequate topographic or vegetative screening exists on a site, mining and similar forms of development may be permitted if vegetation is established which would provide substantial screening on the affected area. The condition of "substantial vegetative screening" shall consist of an ample density and mixture of evergreen and deciduous vegetation (preferably native) to totally obscure, or allow only a highly filtered view of the altered improvement site.

Visible tree harvest may be allowed provided that: 1) the operation complies with the relevant Forest Practices Act rules, 2) harvest methods with low visual impact are used and 3) the effect of the harvest enhances the scenic view within a reasonable time (5-10 years). Tree harvest operations for commercial purposes and/or improving timber stand health shall maintain or enhance views of forest lands by emulating the mosaic character of natural forest landscape (pre-forest management patterns). New roads constructed for timber



harvest or mining will be partially screened, either with vegetation or topography. If inadequate topography or vegetative screening exists, the road may be permitted if native vegetation is established to provide partial screening of the road within a reasonable period example, (for example 4-5 years). The condition of "partial screening" shall consist of an ample density and mixture of native evergreen and/or deciduous vegetation to allow moderately filtered view (at least 30% filtering) of the road.

Improvements needed for public recreation use or resource protection may be visible from the river, but must be designed to blend with the natural character of the landscape.

### **3. Accessible Natural River Area**

That segment of the Wallowa River from the north boundary of the Recreational River Area to the Wallowa's confluence with the Grande Ronde.

This Accessible Natural River Area will be administered consistent with the standards set by OAR 736-40-035. In addition to these standards, all new development in resource zones (i.e. farm and forest related dwellings) must comply with Wallowa and Union County land use regulations.

No new structures or improvements which are visible from the river will be permitted except as provided under OAR 736-40-030 (5).

New roads will be permitted only when fully screened from the river by topography or existing vegetation.

New mining operations and similar improvements shall be permitted only when they are substantially screened from view from the river by topography or native vegetation. If inadequate topographic or vegetative screening exists on a site, mining and similar forms of development may be permitted if vegetation is established which would provide substantial screening on the affected area. The condition of "substantial vegetative screening" shall consist of an ample density and mixture of evergreen and deciduous vegetation (preferably native) to totally obscure, or allow only a highly filtered view of the altered improvement site.

Visible tree harvest may be allowed provided that: 1) the operation complies with the relevant Forest Practices Act rules, 2) harvest methods with low visual impact are used and 3) the effect of the harvest is to enhance the scenic view within a reasonable time (5-years). Tree harvesting operations for commercial purposes and/or improving timber stand health shall maintain or



enhance views of forest lands by emulating the mosaic character of natural forest landscape (pre-forest management patterns).

Existing visible roads may be upgraded when those roads are partially screened or partial screening is established. No side cast which would be visible from the river are permitted. Excess material must be end hauled to locations out of sight from the river. If inadequate screening exists, upgrading the road may be permitted if native vegetation is established to provide partial screening of the road within a reasonable period (for example, 4-5 years). The condition of "partial vegetative screening" shall consist of an ample density and mixture of native evergreen and/or deciduous vegetation to allow a moderately filtered view (at least 50% filtering) of the road.

Proposed utility facilities should share existing utility corridors, and any vegetation disturbance should be kept to a minimum. Improvement needed for public recreation use or resource protection may be visible from the river, but must be primitive in character and designed to blend with the natural character of the landscape.

## Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway Land Management Program

### **Proposed Classifications**

The Parks Department proposes to apply four classifications to the Grande Ronde River Scenic Waterway.

#### Scenic River Area

From the confluence of the Wallowa and Grande Ronde rivers,(Rondowa) to the Umatilla National Forest boundary is classified "Scenic River Area". This segment is approximately 2 miles long, and includes both private and public lands. Visible from the river are a few cabins, railroad crossing, a gauging station, a cable crossing, and a logging road.

The timber stands on both sides of the river are actively managed for timber production (harvest, thinning, fertilization, etc.), with the most recent harvest occurring within the last 15 years. However, most of the harvest are unobtrusive. The management goal is to allow continuation of existing farm, forest, and recreation uses while protecting the scenic character of the area.

#### Natural River Area

From the Umatilla National Forest boundary, downstream about 26 miles to Wildcat Creek is classified as a Natural River Area. This segment is the least developed portion of the Grande Ronde scenic waterway. Visible from the river are a few primitive, private roads high on the slopes, the railroad track on the bank, and a power line. Most of the land fronting this segment of the river is publicly owned and overall character of this area is primitive and isolated. This segment is only accessible to cross country hikers and horseback riders, and to boaters. It offers a wild and unspoiled landscape where human presence is not apparent. The



management goal is to preserve and protect the primitive undeveloped character of the area.

### Recreational River Area

From Wildcat Creek approximately 15 miles to the Oregon State line, except for the community of Troy, is classified as a Recreational River Area. A county road parallels the entire river segment on one side and there are several miles of farm road on the other side. There are two main bridge crossings and several public access points. The ranchsteads are thinly dispersed and picturesque, and are an integrated component of the existing landscape mosaic. Most of the structures are unobtrusive. The management goal is to allow the continuance of existing farm and ranch use with minimum restrictions, and to provide for public recreational needs.

### Troy River Community Area

Troy is a small rural community, with a number of houses and one commercial facility. That portion of the river adjacent to the community zoned as Rural Service is classified as River Community Area. The management goal is to protect the rural quality of the settlement while minimizing additional regulation.

## **Proposed Land Management Rules**

### **1. Scenic River Area**

That segment of the Grande Ronde River from Rondowa to the Umatilla National Forest boundary.

This Scenic River Area will be administered consistent with the standards set by OAR 736-40-035 (see Appendix G). In addition to these standards, all new

development in resource zones (i.e. farm and forest related dwellings) must comply with Wallowa and Union County land use regulations. New structures and improvements (except as provided under OAR 736-40-030 (5)) will be partially screened with native vegetation and/or existing topography.

If inadequate topography or vegetative screening exists on a site, the structure or improvement may be permitted if vegetation (preferably native vegetation) is established to provide partial screening of the proposed structure or improvement within a reasonable time (for example, 4-5 years). The condition of "partial vegetative screening" shall consist of an ample density and mixture of evergreen and deciduous vegetation to partially obscure (at least 50%) of the viewed improvement or structure, or allow a moderately filtered view (at least 50% filtering) of the proposed structure or improvement.

Visible tree harvest may be allowed provided that: 1) the operation complies with the relevant Forest Practices Act rules, 2) harvest methods with low visual impact are used and 3) the effect of the harvest enhances the scenic view within a reasonable time (5-10 years). Tree harvest operations for commercial purposes and/or



improving timber stand health shall maintain or enhance views of forest lands by emulating the mosaic character of natural forest landscape (pre-forest management patterns).

New mining operations and similar improvements shall be permitted only when they are substantially screened from view from the river by topography or native vegetation. If inadequate topographic or vegetative screening exists on a site, mining and similar forms of development may be permitted if vegetation is established which would provide substantial screening on the affected area. The condition of "substantial vegetative screening" shall consist of an ample density and mixture of evergreen and deciduous vegetation (preferably native) to totally obscure, or allow only a highly filtered view of the altered improvement site.

New roads will be permitted only when fully screened from the river by topography or existing vegetation.

Existing visible roads may be upgraded when those roads are partially screened or partial screening is established. No side cast which would be visible from the river are permitted. Excess material must be end hauled to locations out of sight from the river. If inadequate screening exists, the road may be permitted if

native vegetation is established to provide partial screening of the road within a reasonable period (for example, 4-5 years). The condition of "partial vegetative screening" shall consist of an ample density and mixture of native evergreen and/or deciduous vegetation to allow a moderately filtered view (at least 50% filtering) of the road.

Proposed utility facilities should share existing utility corridors, and any vegetation disturbance should be kept to a minimum. Improvements needed for public recreation use or resource protection may be visible from the river, but must be designed to blend with the natural character of the landscape.

## **2.**

### **Natural River Area**

That segment of the Grande Ronde River from the Umatilla National Forest boundary to Wildcat Creek.

This Natural River Area will be administered consistent with the standards set by OAR 736-40-035. In addition to these standards, all new development in resource zones (i.e. farm and forest related dwellings) must comply with Wallowa and Union County land use regulations. No new structures or improvements which are visible from the river will be permitted, except those minimal facilities needed to meet the



public's outdoor recreation needs or resource protection.

Visible tree harvest may be allowed provided that: 1) the operation complies with the relevant Forest Practices Act rules, 2) harvest methods with low visual impact are used and 3) the effect of the harvest enhances the scenic view within a reasonable time (5-10 years). Tree harvest operations for commercial purposes and/or improving timber stand health shall maintain or enhance views of forest lands by emulating the mosaic character of natural forest landscape (pre-forest management patterns). New roads constructed for timber harvest or mining will be partially screened, either with vegetation or topography. If inadequate topography or vegetative screening exists, the road may be permitted if native vegetation is established to provide partial screening of the road within a reasonable period example, (for example 4-5 years).

The condition of "partial screening" shall consist of an ample density and mixture native evergreen and/or deciduous vegetation to allow moderately filtered view (at least 50% filtering) of the road.

New roads will be permitted only when fully screened from the river by topography or existing vegetation.

New mining operations and similar improvements shall be permitted only when they are substantially screened from the river by topography or existing vegetation.

Existing visible roads may be upgraded when those roads are fully screened by topography or vegetation. No side cast which would be visible from the river are permitted. Excess material must be end hauled to locations out of sight from the river.

Any existing roads, visible from the river, shall not be extended, realigned, or improved substantially. No side cast which would be visible from the river are permitted. Excess material must be end hauled to locations out of sight from the river.

Proposed utility facilities should share existing utility corridors, and any vegetation disturbance should be kept to a minimum. Improvement needed for public recreation use or resource protection may be visible from the river, but must be primitive in character and designed to blend with the natural character of the landscape.

### **3.**

#### **Recreational River Area**

That segment of the Grande Ronde River from Wildcat Creek to the Oregon State line, except for the community of Troy.



This Recreational River Area will be administered consistent with the standards set by OAR 736-40-035. In addition to these standards, all new development in resource zones (i.e. farm and forest related dwellings) must comply with Wallowa and Union County land use regulations. New structures and improvements (except as provided under OAR 736-40-030 (5)) will be partially screened with native vegetation and/or existing topography. If inadequate topography or vegetative screening exists on a site, the structure or improvement may be permitted if vegetation (preferably native) is established to provide partial screening of the proposed structure or improvement within a reasonable time (for example, 4-5 years). The condition of "partial vegetative screening" shall consist of an ample density and mixture of evergreen and deciduous vegetation to partially obscure (at least 30%) of the viewed improvement or structure, or allow a moderately filtered view (at least 30% filtering) of the proposed structure or improvement.

Visible tree harvest may be allowed provided that: 1) the operation complies with the relevant Forest Practices Act rules, 2) harvest methods with low visual impact are used and 3) the effect of the harvest enhances the scenic

view within a reasonable time (5-10 years). Tree harvest operations for commercial purposes and/or improving timber stand health shall maintain or enhance views of forest lands by emulating the mosaic character of natural forest landscape (pre-forest management patterns). New roads constructed for timber harvest or mining will be partially screened, either with vegetation or topography. If inadequate topography or vegetative screening exists, the road may be permitted if native vegetation is established to provide partial screening of the road within a reasonable period example, (for example 4-5 years).

The condition of "partial screening" shall consist of an ample density and mixture native evergreen and/or deciduous vegetation to allow partially filtered view (at least 30% filtering) of the road.

New mining operations and similar improvements shall be permitted only when they are substantially screened from view from the river by topography or native vegetation. If inadequate topographic or vegetative screening exists on a site, mining and similar forms of development may be permitted if vegetation is established which would provide substantial screening on the affected area. The condition of "substantial vegetative screening" shall



consist of an ample density and mixture of evergreen and deciduous vegetation (preferably native) to totally obscure, or allow only a highly filtered view of the altered improvement site.

Improvement needed for public recreation use or resource protection may be visible from the river, but must be designed to blend with the natural character of the landscape.

#### **4. River Community Area**

That segment of the Grande Ronde River adjacent to the area zoned Rural Service by Wallowa County.

Rule: This River Community Area will be administered consistent with the standards set by OAR 736-40-035.

In addition to these standards, all new development must comply with Wallowa and Union County land use regulations.

New mining operations and similar improvements shall be permitted only when they are substantially screened from view from the river by topography or native vegetation. If inadequate topographic or vegetative screening exists on a site, mining and similar forms of development may be permitted if vegetation is established which would provide substantial screening

on the affected area. The condition of "substantial vegetative screening" shall consist of an ample density and mixture of evergreen and deciduous vegetation (preferably native) to totally obscure, or allow only a highly filtered view of the altered improvement site.

If land is to remain in forest use, visible timber harvest may be allowed provided that: 1) the operation complies with the relevant Forest Practices Act rules, 2) harvest methods with low visual impact are used and 3) the effect of the harvest enhances the scenic view within a reasonable time (5-10 years). Tree harvest operations for commercial purposes and/or improving timber stand health shall maintain or enhance scenic views of forest lands by emulating the mosaic character of the natural forest landscape (pre-forest management stocking patterns). New roads constructed for timber harvest or mining will be partially screened, either with vegetation or topography. If inadequate topography or vegetative screening exists, the road may be permitted if vegetation (preferably native) is established to provide partial screening of the road within a reasonable period (for example, 4-5 years). The condition of "partial vegetative screening" shall consist of an ample density and mixture of native evergreen and/or deciduous



vegetation to allow a moderately filtered view (at least 30% filtering) of the road. Improvements needed for public recreation use or resource protection may be visible from the river, but must be designed to blend with the natural character of the landscape.

5. Public agencies should provide for and post standardized, well designed, boundary signs distinguishing private lands from public lands where requested and where trespass has been identified as a continual problem.

### **Management Recommendations**

1. Managing agencies should identify areas which are in need of riparian vegetation protection and restoration and assist landowners in finding ways to protect and restore these areas.
2. Managing agencies should identify areas on public lands suitable for wildlife viewing improvements.
3. The Umatilla National Forest, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management should provide the Oregon State Parks & Recreation Department draft plans, environmental assessments or environmental impact statements on activities that may affect the Wallowa and Grande Ronde State Scenic Waterways.
4. The State Parks Department shall seek the cooperation of all local, state and federal agencies in meeting the objectives of this program and complying with the State Scenic Waterway Act and State Parks Commission rules.

### **Agency Jurisdiction**

A number of agencies other than Oregon State Parks have land management and/or land use responsibilities within the Grande Ronde and Wallowa state Scenic Waterway corridors. Most of both corridors are within Wallowa County, with a few small portions in Union County. The Wallowa River Scenic Waterway is under study for inclusion in the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers program; lead agency for the study is the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The Grande Ronde Scenic Waterway is designated under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers program; lead management agency is the Baker District of the Bureau of Land Management. A memorandum of understanding between the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management with Oregon State Parks has provided the framework by which the USFS and BLM will notify and consult with State Parks regarding land use activity on federal lands.

### **County Land Use Administration**

This section describes, in a general way, county land use classifications and allowed uses within the Grande Ronde and Wallowa scenic waterway corridors. Both corridors are primarily within Wallowa County, but small portions of each are within Union County.

Most of the land (both corridors, both counties) is zoned for either Exclusive Farm Use or Timber-Grazing. The Exclusive Farm Use zone is intended "...to provide



areas for the continuation of existing commercial agricultural activities and permit the establishment of only those new uses which are compatible with agricultural activities...to guarantee the preservation of the areas so classified for farm use free from conflicting non-farm uses." Similarly, the Timber-Grazing zone is intended "...to provide areas for commercial farm and forest activities and permit the establishment of only those new uses which are compatible with agricultural activities...to guarantee the preservation of the areas so classified for farm use free from conflicting non-farm, non-forest use."

In both zones, uses permitted outright are:

- (1) farm uses
- (2) management and harvest of forest products
- (3) a single-family dwelling for the operator (if the homesite is on a lot or parcel managed as part of the operation not smaller than the minimum lot size)
- (4) another single-family dwelling on the same lot or parcel where assistance is necessary for management of the operation
- (5) nonresidential buildings customarily provided in conjunction with the farm or forest uses.

In addition, public or private schools and solid waste disposal facilities are allowed within the Exclusive Farm Use zone. Some of these outright uses are subject to county review to ensure that they fall within the provisions and definitions set forth in state statutes and county ordinances.

Both zones allow the creation of new lots greater than 160 acres, following county review. New lots smaller than 160 acres may also be approved, if the county finds

that certain conditions are met and following a public hearing.

Both zones also allow for certain uses other than those listed above, subject to findings of fact and a public hearing on whether a particular use should be allowed. If the county decides to allow a use, it may impose conditions that must be met by the landowner. These conditional uses include:

- (1) single-family dwellings not necessary for farm or forest operations
- (2) temporary placement of mobile homes or travel trailers under certain hardship conditions
- (3) churches or other meeting places of non-profit groups
- (4) public utility services, except transmission towers over 200 feet high
- (5) exploration, mining and processing of geothermal, aggregate or sub-surface resources
- (6) commercial activities in conjunction with farm use
- (7) private or public parks, playgrounds, campgrounds, fishing and hunting preserves
- (8) community centers operated by a government agency or a non-profit organization
- (9) personal use airports and helicopter pads
- (10) certain home occupations
- (11) temporary facilities for the processing of forest products
- (12) cultivation and harvest of aquatic species
- (13) the boarding of horses for profit
- (14) golf courses



## CHAPTER 5 - Cost and Implementation



## Fiscal Requirements

The management actions listed in the various ranges of alternatives on the three river segments in this plan have been combined into four main categories for budgeting purposes. These cost targets are both BLM and Forest Service funding requirements and are based on FY 1992 dollar values. It provides a range of cost option averages that establishes a framework for detailed budget submissions on an annual basis. The four categories include; 1) Land Acquisition (purchase, exchange, donation or easements), 2) Annual Operation and Maintenance, 3) Program Management, and 4) Facility Development.

### -Land Acquisition-

There are approximately 28,800 acres of public and private land within the Wallowa/Grande Ronde River corridor. Of this acreage, and estimated 12,400 acres is in private ownership with the balance of 16,400 acres in state or federal ownership. Due to restrictions within the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Wallowa County ordinances, the Asotin County Shoreline administrative rules, and the willing landowner concept, approximately 30% or 3,700 acres of private land would fall within the acquisition program of purchases, exchange, donation, or easements. The land acquisition program is further prioritized as follows:

Priority 1 - Those lands within the designated segment of the Grande Ronde from Rondowa to the Oregon/Washington stateline. It is the priority of this segment to acquire only undeveloped lands to protect the Outstandingly Remarkable Values for which Congress designated the river.

Priority 2 - Those lands within the Wallowa River from Minam to Rondowa.

It is the priority of this segment to acquire only undeveloped lands to protect the corridor values for which Congress designated it as a study river.

Priority 3 - Those lands within the Grande Ronde River from the Washington/Oregon stateline to Heller Bar. It is the priority of this segment to acquire only undeveloped lands to protect corridor natural values as identified in the Baker Resource Management Plan and the Asotin County Shoreline Plan.

For those private lands within each of the above segments, the following criteria will be utilized to determine easement/acquisition priorities:

- Those lands containing Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV's) i.e. scenic, recreational, fisheries habitat, wildlife habitat, and cultural resources.
- Those lands that are adjacent to the river, are flat, and are accessible from the river.
- Those lands that contain a high potential for commercial development which if developed, would degrade the values for which Congress designated the river.
- Those lands that provide for public access to the river in high use recreation areas.

This criteria serves only to direct the development of acquisition and easement studies, and is not meant to be the sole criteria under consideration.

Administrative costs for the acquisition program are estimated as follows. No property values are approximated as each transaction requires a separate appraisal. Only the costs to the agency for processing the transaction are estimated for an average size case.



Purchase/Donation/Conservation Easement  
- \$22.00 per acre

Exchange - \$45.00 per acre

#### **-Annual Operation and Maintenance-**

This category includes maintenance of over 224 campsites, river access facilities at Minam, Mud Creek, Boggan's, and Heller Bar, and the river ranger station at Minam. Annual operation and maintenance funding for the Wallowa/Grande Ronde corridor ranges from \$90,000 annually at the custodial level to \$185,000 annually at the full development level.

#### **-Annual Program Management-**

Funding includes development of information/education programs, monitoring programs, maps and brochures, permit systems, vehicle costs, equipment charges, and school curriculums. Annual program management funding requirements range from \$20,000 annually at the custodial level to \$130,000 annually at the full development level.

#### **-Facility Development-**

This category includes the survey, design, and construction of river related recreational facilities, including trails, river access developments, administrative facilities, signing, and trash and waste disposal facilities. Annual facility development funding requirements depend on project submissions and approvals for any given fiscal year. Development of facilities range from small signing projects of \$3,000 to full camp ground development of over \$1.3 million dollars.



## CHAPTER 6 - Appendices



## Appendix A - Boundary Descriptions

### WALLOWA RIVER (Study River Boundary)

The Wallowa River administrative boundary adopted by the Forest Service during the National Wild and Scenic River Eligibility/Suitability Study is ¼ mile mean high water mark, each side of river and is in conformance with the Oregon State Scenic Waterway designation.

### GRANDE RONDE WILD AND SCENIC RIVER BOUNDARY - Legal Descriptions

43.8 miles = 14,016 acres

Begin at Rondowa, proceed downstream

<u>TOWNSHIP</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>SECTION</u>	<u>SUBDIVISION</u>	<u>ACRES</u>
3	40	23	All that port. of the E ½ NW ¼ lying NW of BCC logging Rd. (known as freeway)	55
			W ½ NW ¼	80
		14	N ½ N ½;	160
			SW ¼ NE ¼;	40
			S ½ NW ¼;	80
			SW ¼	160
		11	S ½ NE ¼;	80
			S ½	320
		12	W ½ NE ¼;	80
			NW ¼;	160
			W ½ SW ¼;	80
			NE ¼ SW ¼;	40
			NW ¼ SE ¼	40
1	Lots 2 & 3;	29.88		
	SW ¼ NE ¼;	40		
	E ½ SW ¼;	80		
	SE ¼ NW ¼ SW ¼;	10		
	E ½ SW ¼ SW ¼;	20		
	W ½ SE ¼	80		
4N	40	36	E ½;	320
			E ½ SE ¼ NW ¼;	20
			NE ¼ NE ¼ SW ¼;	10
			S ½ NE ¼ SW ¼;	20



			SE ¼ SW ¼;	40
4N	41	31	E ½ NW ¼; Lots 1,2 & 3	80 123.97
4N	40	25	E ½ E ½	160
4N	41	30	E ½ W ½ Lots 1,2,3 & 4	160 162.16
4N	40	24	E ½ E ½; E ½ W ½ NE ¼	160 40
4N	41	19	Lots 2,3 & 4	121.54
4N	40	13	E ½	160
4	41	18	E ½ NE ¼ NW ¼; Lots 1,2,3 & 4	20 164.04
4	40	12	E ½	320
4	41	7	N ½; N ½ SW ¼; SW ¼ SW ¼; N ½ SE ¼ SW ¼; SW ¼ SE ¼ SW ¼	320 80 40 20 10
		6	NE ¼ SE ¼; S ½ SE ¼	40 80
		5	Lots 1,2 & 3 S ½ N ½; S ½ SW ¼	103.95 160 80
5N	41	32	NE ¼ SE ¼; Lots 3 & 4	40 74.39
		33	Lot 1; Lot 2; Lot 3; NW ¼; Lot 4; Lot 5; Lot 6; Lot 7; Lot 8; Lot 9; Lot 10;	23.75 39.83 12.42 160 48.09 56.06 19.81 14.77 41.33 35.15 44.19



		28	S ½	320
		27	Lot 1;	35.48
			Lot 2;	23.45
			NE ¼ SW ¼;	40
			SW ¼ SW ¼;	40
			Lot 3;	35.64
			Lot 4;	45.87
			Lot 5	37.77
		34	N ½ NE ¼;	80
			N ½ SW ¼ NE ¼;	20
			SW ¼ SW ¼ NE ¼;	10
			Lot 1;	25.93
			Lot 2;	17.92
			Lot 3;	24.28
			S ½ NW ¼	80
		35	Lot 1;	51.04
			Lot 2;	37.57
			Lot 3;	25.43
			Lot 4;	46.45
			Lot 5;	22.26
			W ½ NW ¼;	80
			SE ¼ NW ¼;	40
			N ½ NE ¼ SE ¼	20
		26	Lot 1;	44.58
			Lot 2;	31.57
			Lot 3;	31.27
			NE ¼ SW ¼	40
			SE ¼	160
		36	NW ¼ NW ¼	40
			Lot 1;	36.53
			Lot 2;	49.59
			Lot 3;	24.58
			SW ¼ SW ¼;	40
			Lot 4;	20.23
			Lot 5;	11.92
			N ½ SE ¼;	80
			Lot 6;	14.57
			Lot 7;	16.59
			Lot 8;	13.77
			Lot 9	18.78
		25	SE ¼ SW ¼ SW ¼	10
4N	41	1	Lots 1,2 3 & 4	141.20
			SW ¼;	160
			W ½ NW ¼ SE ¼	20



4N	42	6	Lot 2;	34.32
			Lot 3;	44.12
			Lot 4;	52.28
5N	42	31	Lot 8;	44.4
			S½SW¼NE¼;	20
			SE¼SE¼NW¼;	10
			Lot 7;	13.46
			Lot 6;	39.08
			Lot 3;	41.9
			Lot 4;	40.56
			Lot 5;	17.3
			Lot 11;	49.6
			Lot 10;	16.95
			Lot 9;	28.1
			SE¼SE¼	40
		32	Lot 12;	17.63
			Lot 1;	12.63
			Lot 2;	24.4
			Lot 3;	15.8
			NW¼NW¼;	40
			Lot 4;	41.62
			Lot 9;	38.97
			Lot 10;	35.78
			Lot 11;	39.37
			Lot 5;	50.87
			Lot 8;	24.9
			Lot 6;	19.37
			Lot 7;	33.53
			N½N½SE¼;	40
		29	SE¼SW¼;	40
			S½SW¼SE¼;	20
			Lot 1;	30.14
			Lot 2;	20.14
			Lot 3;	11.7
		28	S½NW¼NE¼;	20
			S½NE¼NW¼;	20
			SW¼NW¼;	40
			Lot 3;	17.59
			Lot 7;	19.55
			Lot 2;	18.01
			Lot 1;	34.43
			Lot 4;	26.82
			Lot 5;	46.31
			SE¼SW¼	40
			Lot 6;	27.85
			Lot 8;	37.63



			Lot 9;	32.59
			S ½ SE ¼	80
		33	N ½ NW ¼	80
		27	Lot 8;	38.09
			N ½ SW ¼ NE ¼;	20
			NW ¼ SE ¼ NE ¼;	10
			Lot 1;	12.7
			Lot 2;	13.77
			Lot 7;	19.5
			Lot 6;	20.14
			Lot 3;	37.19
			Lot 4;	8.15
			Lot 5;	19.73
			N ½ SE ¼ NW ¼;	20
			SW ¼ SE ¼ NW ¼	10
			NW ¼ SW ¼	40
5	42	22	SE ¼ SW ¼;	40
			NW ¼ SE ¼;	80
			Lot 1;	38.69
			Lot 2;	13.9
			Lot 3;	15.44
		23	Lot 1;	27.81
			Lot 2;	26.24
			Lot 3;	43.9
			Lot 4;	40.52
			Lot 5;	29.25
			Lot 6;	26.72
			Lot 7;	42
			Lot 8;	42.76
		26	N ½ NW ¼	80
		24	Lot 2;	50.92
			Lot 3;	45.70
			Lot 4;	12.37
			Lot 5;	24.02
			Lot 6;	45.70
			Lot 7;	15.85
			SE ¼ SW ¼;	40
			SW ¼ SE ¼;	40
			Lot 8;	19.99
			Lot 9;	25.27
			Lot 10;	44.15
5N	43	19	NE ¼;	160



5N	43		E ½ NW ¼;	80
			Lot 2;	40.37
			Lot 3;	40.48
			NE ¼ SW ¼;	40
			E ½ SE ¼ SW ¼	20
			N ½ NW ¼ SE ¼;	20
			NE ¼ SE ¼	40
		18	SE ¼ NE ¼ SE ¼	10
			SE ¼ SE ¼	40
		20	N ½ N ½ NE ¼;	40
			NW ¼;	40
			N ½ SW ¼	80
		17	E ½;	320
			S ½ N ½ SW ¼;	40
			S ½ SW ¼;	80
		16	N ½ N ½;	160
			N ½ SW ¼ NE ¼;	20
			N ½ S ½ NW ¼	40
		8	SE ¼ NE ¼ NE ¼;	10
			SE ¼ NE ¼;	40
			NE ¼ SE ¼	40
		9	N ½;	320
			N ½ SW ¼;	80
			SE ¼	160
		4	Lot 1;	77
			Lot 2;	40.39
			Lot 3;	40.4
			SE ¼ NW ¼;	40
			N ½ NE ¼ SW ¼;	20
			SE ¼ NE ¼ SW ¼;	10
			N ½ SW ¼ SE ¼;	20
			SE ¼ SW ¼ SE ¼;	10
			SE ¼ SE ¼;	40
			That part of the NW ¼ SE ¼ lying S & W of the Courtney Creek Road.	35
			That part of S ½ NE ¼ lying N of Wallow County Road #737.	30
		3	Lot 3;	40.4
			Lot 4;	40.32



			N ½ SW ¼ NW ¼	20
6N	43	34	N ½ NE ¼;	80
			SW ¼ NE ¼;	40
			N ½ SE ¼ NE ¼;	20
			SW ¼ SE ¼ NE ¼;	10
			E ½ SW ¼;	80
			SE ¼ SW ¼ SW ¼;	10
			W ½ SE ¼;	80
			W ½ NE ¼ SE ¼	20
6N	43	27	SE ¼ SE ¼;	40
			S ½ SW ¼ SE ¼;	20
		35	W ½ NW ¼ NE ¼;	20
			N ½ NW ¼	80
		26	E ½ NE ¼;	80
			SE ¼ NW ¼ NE ¼;	10
			SW ¼ NE ¼;	40
			SE ¼ NE ¼ SW ¼;	10
			S ½ S ½ SW ¼;	40
			NE ¼ SE ¼ SW ¼;	10
			NW ¼ SE ¼;	40
			N ½ SW ¼ SE ¼;	20
			SW ¼ SW ¼ SE ¼	10
		25	W ½ NW ¼	80
		23	E ½ NE ¼;	80
			NE ¼ NE ¼ SE ¼;	10
			S ½ NE ¼ SE ¼;	20
			SE ¼ SE ¼	10
6N	43	24	NW ¼ NE ¼;	40
			NW ¼ SW ¼ NE ¼;	10
			W ½;	320
		13	Lot 2;	22.89
			Lot 3;	26.63
			Lot 6;	40
			Lot 7;	40

#### Grande Ronde River Boundary (Washington Segment)

The Washington segment of the Grande Ronde River administrative boundary adopted by the BLM from Baker Resource Management plan direction is ¼ mile on public land mean high water mark each side of river and 200 feet on private land mean high water mark each side of river and is identical with the Asotin County Shoreline Plan.



## Appendix B - Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

### ROS EXPERIENCE CHARACTERIZATION (PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES)

Primitive River	Semi-Primitive Non-motorized River	Semi-Primitive Motorized River	Roaded Natural River	Rural River	Urban River
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unmodified landscape- natural environment no evidence of human development.</li> <li>- No developed access sites along the river.</li> <li>- No roads</li> <li>- No impoundments, diversions, or channel modifications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Largely undisturbed natural environment.</li> <li>- Little evidence of human development.</li> <li>- Very few trailed access sites developed along the river.</li> <li>- Primitive roads to access points on edge of corridor.</li> <li>- No impoundments, diversions, or channel modifications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Largely undisturbed natural environment.</li> <li>- Little evidence of human development.</li> <li>- Very few access sites developed along the river.</li> <li>- Roads to access points only- do not parallel river.</li> <li>- No impoundments, diversions or channel modifications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alteration to the landscape are subtle. Natural characteristics remain dominant.</li> <li>- Moderate evidence of human development.</li> <li>- Developed access sites provided.</li> <li>- Roads parallel some portions of the river.</li> <li>- Few impoundments, diversions or channel modifications.</li> </ul> <p>There may be small nodes of rural and urban development (typically 1/4-mile or less in length).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Substantially modified landscape having both manmade and natural features.</li> <li>- Evidence of human development prevalent.</li> <li>- Facilities developed to manage/aid greater numbers of visitors.</li> <li>- Specific sites developed to provide health/sanitation facilities and recreation convenience.</li> <li>- Easy access to river by roads- some parallel river, bridges, and powerlines evident.</li> <li>- Impoundments, diversions or channel modifications occur.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Landscape may be dominated by roads, towns, small cities or by recreation facilities. Highly developed for more intensive and specialized recreation activities.</li> <li>- Specific sites are developed to provide health and sanitation facilities as well as recreation convenience.</li> <li>- Roads and road access are frequent.</li> <li>- Impoundments, diversions or channel modifications are common.</li> </ul>



# ROS EXPERIENCE CHARACTERIZATION (SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES)

Primitive River	Semi-Primitive Non-motorized River	Semi-Primitive Motorized River	Roaded Natural River	Rural River	Urban River
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Highest expectations of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of humans.</li> <li>- No expected contact with other individuals.</li> <li>- None to little evidence of other users.</li> <li>- Self-reliance through application of outdoor skills in an environment that offers a high degree of challenge and risk.</li> <li>- Strong sense of remoteness.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fairly high expectations of solitude and experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of others.</li> <li>- Few but occasional contacts with other users at rapids and access points.</li> <li>- Little but some evidence of other users.</li> <li>- Self-reliance through application of outdoor skills in an environment that offers a moderate degree of challenge and risk.</li> <li>- Sense of remoteness.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Moderate expectation of solitude and some expectation of experiencing isolation from sights and sounds of others.</li> <li>- Few but occasional contacts with other users at rapids and access points.</li> <li>- Little but some evidence of other users.</li> <li>- Self-reliance through application of outdoor skills in an environment that offers a degree of challenge and risk.</li> <li>- Sense of remoteness.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of others.</li> <li>- Moderate use occurs contact with others is expected and occasionally continual, some chance for isolation.</li> <li>- Opportunities for challenge in a natural environment but less expectation of risk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evidence of sights and sounds of humans common from other river users and from people off river.</li> <li>- Contact with others expected including frequent interface between river users and shore users.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High concentration of users and large number of people are within the area and nearby with evidence of other users being dominant. Frequent interface between river users and shore users.</li> <li>- Challenge and risk are less important.</li> </ul>



# ROS EXPERIENCE CHARACTERIZATION (MANAGERIAL ATTRIBUTES)

Primitive River	Semi-Primitive Non-motorized River	Semi-Primitive Motorized River	Roaded Natural River	Rural River	Urban River
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No on-site visitor management controls or regulations apparent.</li> <li>- No facility development for user comfort.</li> <li>- Traditional non-motorized craft allowed motorized use prohibited.</li> <li>- Regulations for human waste disposal.</li> <li>- Low impact camping practices required.</li> <li>- Very small part size (6-120 and few boats per group.</li> <li>- On outfitter trips visitors participate in navigation of the river and perceive a high degree of challenge and risk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Only a few but subtle on-site visitor management controls or regulations are apparent.</li> <li>- Minimal facility development allowed. See ROS Primer and Field Guide.</li> <li>- Traditional non-motorized craft allowed motorized use prohibited.</li> <li>- Regulations for human waste disposal and camping practices required.</li> <li>- Small party size (8-20) and limited boats per group.</li> <li>- Outfitter and guides are often used but customers experience a moderate degree of challenge and risk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Only a few but subtle on-site visitor management controls or regulations are apparent.</li> <li>- Minimal facility development allowed. See ROS Primer and field Guide.</li> <li>- Traditional non-motorized and motorized water craft allowed.</li> <li>- Regulations for human waste disposal and camping practices required.</li> <li>- Small to moderate part size (?-?) and limited boats per group.</li> <li>- Outfitter and guides are often used but customers experience a moderate degree of challenge and risk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A few on-site visitor management controls or regulations may be expected.</li> <li>- Rustic facilities, developed for protection of the resource and to accommodate visitor use. See ROS Primer and Field Guide.</li> <li>- Non-motorized and motorized water craft allowed.</li> <li>- Agriculture and forestry practices occasionally evident but subordinate.</li> <li>- Some development of private land noticeable.</li> <li>- Some auto and off-road vehicle use can be seen from river.</li> <li>- Contacts with management personnel are more frequent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visitor management controls are viable and expected.</li> <li>- Some facility development for protection of the resource and to accommodate visitor use. See ROS Primer and Field Guide.</li> <li>- Motorized and non-motorized use allowed.</li> <li>- Agriculture practices occasionally evident and may dominate.</li> <li>- Development of private land more prevalent.</li> <li>- Regular auto and off-road vehicle use can be seen from river.</li> <li>- Land based recreation facility development more prevalent.</li> <li>- Contact with management and personnel are more frequent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Numerous visitor management controls and regulations are in effect.</li> <li>- Intensive facility development and land use may dominate landscape.</li> <li>- Motorized and non-motorized use of all types allowed.</li> <li>- Regular highway vehicle use is allowed and is a dominant feature of the landscape.</li> <li>- Contact with management personnel and law enforcement officers is frequent.</li> </ul>



## **Appendix C - Planning Participants**

### **- Land Managing Agency Representatives**

Jim May, Bureau of Land Management - Vale District  
Bob Richmond, Forest Service - Wallowa/Whitman National Forest  
Jeff Blackwood, Forest Service - Umatilla National Forest  
Jim Lauman, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Bruce Smith, Washington Department of Wildlife  
Owen Lucas, Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation  
Pat Combes, Wallowa County Oregon  
Lawrence "Doc" Savage, Union County Oregon  
Mark Krammer, Asotin County Washington

### **- Citizens Ad Hoc Team Members (Oregon)**

Gerry Meyer, Bureau of Land Management  
Dorothy Mason, Bureau of Land Management  
Steve Bush, Forest Service  
Marty Gardner, Forest Service  
Cindy Vergari, Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation  
Jacque Greenleaf, Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation  
Gary Miniszewski, Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation  
Larry Cribbs, Union County Oregon  
Pat Combes, Wallowa County Oregon  
Larry Marks, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Wayne Shuyler, Oregon State Marine Board  
Louie Dick, Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation  
Rick George, Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation  
Trish Quaempts, Confederated Tribe Umatilla Indian Reservation  
Don Bryson, Nez Perce, Lapwai Indian Reservation  
Mike Gibbs, Community of Troy, Oregon  
Bob Weinberger, Private Forest Lands  
Lynn George, Oregon Rivers Council  
John Ecklund, Non Commercial Recreation  
Jim Coxen, Non Commercial Recreation  
Marsh Tildon, Commercial Recreation  
Paul Morehead, Organized Labor  
Bob Morse, Livestock Producer  
Doug Mallory, Wenaha River Representative

### **- Citizens Ad Hoc Team Members (Washington)**

Gerry Meyer, Bureau of Land Management  
Steve Bush, Forest Service  
Gary Long, Washington Department of State Parks  
Roger Holland, Washington Department of Wildlife  
Don Brigham, Asotin County, Washington  
Trish Quaempts, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation



Don Bryson, Nez Perce, Lapwai Indian Reservation  
Fred Dole, Environmental Representative  
Scott Druley, Non Commercial Recreation  
Farrel Vail, Commercial Recreation  
Stue Rasponse, Organized Labor  
Doug Paynter, Utilities  
Ivan Botts, Livestock Producer  
Mike Odom, Private Land Representative  
Bruce Oakes, Community of Heller Bar, Washington

- Management Participation

Jack Albright, Bureau of Land Management - Baker Resource Area  
Tom Reilly, Forest Service - Walla Walla Ranger District  
Jim Golden, Forest Service - Wallowa Valley Ranger District  
Larry Marks, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Owen Lucas, Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation  
Roger Holland, Washington Department of Wildlife

-Staff Participation

Gerry Meyer, Planning Team Leader, Bureau of Land Management  
Kevin McCoy, River Manager, Bureau of Land Management  
Dorothy Mason, Staff Supervisor, Bureau Of Land Management  
Rich Conrad, Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management  
Dawn Coles, Staff Assistant, Bureau of Land Management  
Odos Lowery, Forester, Bureau of Land Management  
John Denney, Watershed Specialist, Bureau of Land Management  
Matt Kniessel, Wildlife Biologist, Bureau of Land Management  
Ralph Kuhns, Geologist, Bureau of Land Management  
Jim Ledger, Access Specialist, Bureau of Land Management  
Mary Oman, Archeologist, Bureau of Land Management  
Larry Taylor, Range Conservationist, Bureau of Land Management  
Mike Woods, Range Conservationist, Bureau of Land Management  
Chris Shaver, Support Services Specialist, Bureau of Land Management  
Marty Stannard, River Ranger, Bureau of Land Management  
Woody Fine, River Planner, Forest Service  
Steve Bush, River Planner, Forest Service  
Robin Rose, River Planner, Forest Service  
Susan Skalski, River Planner, Forest Service  
Marty Gardner, River Planner, Forest Service

- Public Participation

The process leading to the publication of this draft management plan has included numerous opportunities for public participation. The following documents, developed over the last several years, included extensive public input that directed the development of this plan.

- Union and Wallowa County Land Use Plans



- Asotin County Shoreline Program Draft Plan.
- Baker Resource Management Plan, Bureau of Land Management
- Umatilla Forest Plan, Forest Service
- Wallowa/Whitman Forest Plan, Forest Service
- Oregon State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- Congressional hearings prior to Public Law 100-557, establishing the Grande Ronde River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
- Designation of the Wallowa/Grande Ronde Rivers as a component of the Oregon State Scenic Waterway system.



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## **Appendix E - Laws and Regulations**

1. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act 90-542, October 1968 ad amended by Public Law 100-557, October 1988.
2. Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), Sec. 603 Public Law 94-579, October 1976.
3. National Forest Management Act (NFMA) 1976.
4. Endangered Species Act, 1973, as amended.
5. Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act, Public Law 96-501.
6. Archaeological Resources Protection Act, 1979, as amended.
7. Historic Preservation Act, 1966.
8. Clean Water Act, Public Law 92-500.
9. The Federal Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 1958.
10. The National Environmental Protection Act, 1969.
11. Oregon State Scenic Waterways Act, ORS 390.805 to 390.925.
12. Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 736. Div. 40 - State Department of Parks and Recreation.



## **Appendix F - Public Comments**

### **GRANDE RONDE/POWDER WILD & SCENIC RIVERS BAKER PUBLIC MEETING SEPTEMBER 19, 1989**

50% Rule - Good to put this up

Condemnation questions, taxes after easement purchase

Minimum stream flows - Wild & Scenic doesn't address this

Motorized use - Wild section

State Scenic - how does this affect federal land - State role in this?

Longevity of plans - 10-15 Years? 1993?

Any improvement projects?

Acec's areas of critical environment concern: - EA's management plans

Interim boundaries - done on resource values only of BLM, FS, ODFW

Private water rights - we can't take - existing uses will remain if a legal rights (i.e.) irrigation, power, etc.) not just "existing" use

Scenic easement right to let livestock access water, a negotiable process

Who held "first" (i.e. Hatfield Wild & Scenic Act) meetings on river inclusion were done

Lead time critical for these meetings

When will Ad Hoc group begin meeting?

Scenic design - doesn't preclude mineral entry wild - only designate which affect this

Discussion of how Ad Hoc groups will work

Interim boundaries-just that: several years to get final boundaries

Will there be fencing put in? Who pays for and puts up?

Availability of Owyhee Plan - Public would like

What if feds and public can't come to agreement at the end of three years?

Condemnation for the right (Scenic Easement) is a possibility



**GRANDE RONDE/POWDER  
WILD & SCENIC RIVERS  
TROY PUBLIC MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 21, 1989**

How was it (Rondowa to Wildcat bridge to state line) designated wild without public input?

How did State of Oregon vote us out and then it got in anyway?

How will it affect personal business on the river?

When will cattle be fenced off rivers?

Why weren't Jet-boaters, tubes, etc., included on slides?

Live on river and map interim boundaries encompass property?

What improvements will be permitted?

What will restrictions be on that property?

Will government help "share" taxes on this property?

How can property be condemned? At what prices?

Is it still public water?

Will water rights be protected?

Can applications be submitted for water rights?

Restrictions on spraying? Restrictions on cutting/planting trees?

How much more land will this embrace before we're done? Going up each creek?

Access on private property within boundaries?

Responsibility/liability on private property?

Why should we fool with this when public agencies can't manage what they have?

Why are boundaries "section wide"?

Why not leave it the way it is? Turn back to people?

Why does public agencies want to manage when people have been managing it?



Why can't we let private landowner have their land? Don't care about just compensation, just leave alone (in regard to 5th amendment)

Will the Gao reports/executive orders/court cases be used to create management guidelines to not intrude on private landowners rights?

Explain land acquisition

Is BLM set and done for development of management plans by hidden agenda?

Do we have access to public input prior to act; will we use in developing management plans?

What % of State is in public ownership

Are boundaries "imaginary"? Doesn't consider private property?

What is inventory?

Why can't we preserve river without encompassing so much private land?

Wild designation - is this for Multiple use?



**GRANDE RONDE/POWDER  
WILD & SCENIC RIVERS  
ENTERPRISE PUBLIC MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 26, 1989**

Will labor unions be included in the Citizen's group?

Concern - loss of jobs

Water users?

Liability of landowner if someone has an accident on an Easement?

What kinds of visuals to affect timber?

Management considers comments on Grande Ronde same as for Wallowa not so

Drop Wallowa from study

Why did management decision force Jet-boaters into non-compromising position?

What specific management ruling was used to deny Jet Boat use on Grande Ronde?

Is this ruling by Management choice?

How can management justify this ruling? Direct conflict with management guidelines, County, Civil laws, etc.

Uniform width of corridor on Federal land (Interim boundaries issue)

Will boaters need recreational permits to float river?

Affect on livestock use (Grazing restrictions)?

Will management pay attention to recreational users to these who pay their way (Vs. Freeloaders)?

How will allocations between private and commercial uses be made?

Will there be an effect on farmers because of water quality?

Look at permanent features (fire rings, toilets) to keep clean

What will happen (restrictions, especially water rights) if you have property on river?

Locked up areas in state of decline will you allow management as needed?

Will there be a cap on number of permits?

Any facilities to providing campgrounds, toilets, garbage picked up, other facilities?



What about hunting rights?

How many access routes, has access been considered?

Promoting privately owned recreational developments (dwellings, food, lodging)?

Will landowners have to fence cattle off streams?

Does upper management have a choice in scenic easements/condemnation or is it mandatory?

Request comments be reviewed by citizens committee?

Existing uses - will they be allowed (Ag uses), and will other new ones be allowed?

Has anyone sold water rights back to the feds?

Can citizens control visuals outside the river corridor?

Concern: Not one stick of timber will be cut in boundary

Control of noxious weeds, insects in this area?

Water originating on Forest Service land - do they land?

If private building is in view of river, does government tell what to do with it? (paint color, etc.)?

Concern: Keep citizens informed of what's going on and opportunities for comment in sufficient time to participate

Expect use conflict between river users in the next 10-15 years?

Have there been court cases on river use or condemnation on other rivers? Will they get fair market value?

How much of Wallowa study river section is private vs' public?

How much of public meeting comments will be used/considered by the citizens committee?



**GRANDE RONDE/POWDER  
WILD & SCENIC RIVERS  
LA GRANDE PUBLIC MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 28, 1989**

Organized labor should be represented on AD HOC Committee

Tri-County River Management Team has Eagle feeding done?

Supplied garbage can?

Jet boaters recognized use

Government only owns 10% of Wallowa - Drop from study

What specific ruling to deny Jet boating?

Choice or has to be applied?

Why did management make this choice? Uncompromising position

How can government do this in conflict with other laws and regulations?

On March 17th - Requested to present reasons to deny permit - Why?

What is difference private vs' commercial Jet boaters?

Tri-County River Management Team represented in AD HOC Committee?

Concern that this sets precedent

Want planning leaders accept no petition unless commercial permits issued prior to petition

Request ranger reports

Request temporary commercial permit be issued to study compatibility

Jet boat use not even considered

What procedures do we intend to use on private land (year process)?

How hard is it to change boundaries?

3/4 mile too high for boundary line



Navigable status of Grande Ronde

Under what process was Grande Ronde added to Scenic Waterways?

Request new team leader - not Biased, not buckling to management

Which agency is final authority on Grande Ronde? Are we wasting time?

Why go so high on boundaries on some land and not others?

Will there be a charge for Float permits?

What is Classification of Wallowa?

What control on River Rangers influencing public? Why only environmentalists as rangers?

Was meeting advertised in Observer?

Have compatible and conflicting uses been identified?

Where is proposed funding coming from?

What agreement ODFW/FS/BLM? (What happened to it?)

Injunction to congress to stop Boundary setting due to short time limits

Are individual rights considered?

What is the 320 acre & 50% definition of river segment?

When will Imnaha hearing take place?

Had studies on Washington portion of Grande Ronde Administered by BLM?

Why study Wallowa when so many impacts and private land?

What individual rights will be given up?

Are condemnations by choice or directed by upper management?

BLM offensive Re: Management of Wallowa River - Privately owned River

Will run river unless congress gives answer why permit denied

What is the definition of a "river mile"? How is it measured?



What happens if someone runs without permit?

Liability for private landowners?

Is this time to show boundary changes?

Why was Jet Boat Commercial Enterprise left out?

What is procedure of final acceptance for plan?

What is basic reason for setting boundaries?

What influence of BLM Rangers on State Scenic Waterway bill?

Where does private citizen change designations?

How can State make designation against wishes of local residents?

Is BLM under directive to manage all three river segments?

If private business suffers loss, does government have compensate?

State Scenic - ¼ mile standard not the same as BLM boundary - how reconciled?

With no forest land on Wallowa, why is Forest Service going to study it?

What if private owners refuse access to river?

Are people paid for easements?

Feel threatened that government is taking private land and livelihoods



**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS -- SCOPING MEETING  
CLARKSTON/LEWISTON - 11/7/89**

What is the benefit of taking a river in a wilderness area and designating it wild and scenic?

Is there any thought of restricting campfires in dry areas?

Will those pvt. ranches be transfers to pvt. ownership or will it go to the government when current owner "quits"?

If ranch is not to be used as a ranch, can it resume as such in future?

If I buy a piece of land joining a wild river, do I have the right to continue use as originally used?

Where is money going to come from to fund River Management Plan and implementation?

Is there going to be any restrictions on building on land privately owned?

Owner's road, does he have to provide access to public?

Will the different river designations be established during planning process?

Does wild designation prevent using machinery on a "natural disaster"?

Logging allowed on scenic, recreational rivers - what are restrictions?

What are restrictions on existing mining activity?

Will there be limitations on hunting, fishing, or trapping?

Maintenance on a road - will there be restrictions on road maintenance?

What about traversing a stream whether by vehicle or livestock?

Explanation of Sec. 9B of the Act?

Re: campfire question

Heavy recreation weekends cause a fire problem - don't think "we" can manage that.  
Would like to see campfire management addressed in plans.

Acts such as that (Wts NRA) will force landowner to sell only to federal government due to all their restrictions.

Through this act - will it restrict development (i.e., subdivisions)?



Will the easement still allow cows to drink out of river?

If Forest Service buys scenic easement - that restricts livestock use will Forest Service pay for improvements needed?

Would have been better to leave rivers alone than to designate - no money to carry out.

If you have a river with already lots of use, how will you deal with this use if it is in conflict with anadromous fisheries, riparian vegetation, etc.

If State of Washington has rivers designated, will they be under the variances as Oregon?

Does landowner have to come and tell federal government if they want to build a road, i.e., into wild and scenic corridor?

(Following notes were recorded during the meeting by Robin Rose. These comments were not recorded on flip charts, therefore person commenting was not given the opportunity to correct meaning or content.)

Joseph Creek inaccessible now. If more people recreate there, they could start fires that are difficult/impossible to stop. Ranchers afraid to leave home because of careless recreationists.

You won't get money to manage river corridors. It would have been better to leave the land alone than "lock it up".

If you are recording comments from this meeting, I am for maximum protection and inclusion in the Wild & Scenic River system for the river(s) currently under study." (C.B. hand-delivered comment)



**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS -- SCOPING MEETING  
TROY - NOVEMBER 8, 1989**

Why is the Grande Ronde River being made wild and scenic rather than recreation?

About rafters on the river--

Litter, garbage, human feces.

No place - lack of facilities on river for taking care of this.

Irrigation rights (cattle) - Issue should be more thorough. Recorded water rights. Can they get on if they don't have one now.

Control study (noxious) -- Recommend a control program.

Irrigation rights/ranching will it change or continue?

What is boundary from the Grande Ronde?

Wenaha?

When will have answers for questions we asked last time. High water instead of what private land was on maps?

Recommend jet boat use on Wallowa be addressed in plan.

Grande Ronde - Why was the portion designated (no from La Grande for ex)

Future plans - (federal) - Pollution that comes to us from upstream. Is the study going to address this?

On Salmon River - Voluntary pack out or developed site?

How does this act affect cattle's access to water.

A noxious weed program is being started on Wenaha (addressed).

Swap hay for hunters - Bring horses in that can also transport noxious weeds. Has this been addressed?

How about old residences not on septic systems - not up to code.

Is there going to be three administrative things on Grande Ronde?

In other management plans -- did they develop other water sources?

Vehicles can spread (knapweed) as much as animals.



City people coming in and making the rules and regulations.

If house right close to river and boundaries is  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from river - the private area (house) is within the study area? Troy with Grande Ronde. How does this affect the property owner?

New constructs or alterations -- needs -- county zoning, state, state scenic waterways, and federal govern? (scrutiny)

Sale of easement (to the river) imposed (forced) on us or our choice.

At September meeting -- said that private property could be condemned. Private property shouldn't be under the Wild and Scenic River Act.

Why weren't the boundaries made known before Act passed?

Recommend that Middle Fork Of the Salmon example be used for these rivers.

Who designates where floaters and campers stop?

Who told Congress about where the river recommendations should be placed in the Act? (What parts of the rivers that are now affected.)

Fish habitat for wild spawning - Logging in those areas are critical and should be done carefully to protect this spawning ground.

Are you condemning land for public access for a man's land?

Will federal supersede county plan?

Don't think this should be on private land.

Was there a special appropriation from congress for funds to do this planning?

If this act is federal, why did it have to stop at the state line?

Why did they make the Wenaha River in wild and scenic when it is already in the wilderness?

This Act was to stop the damming of rivers. This isn't the private landowners - who initiates these structures. Federal govern protecting landowners from federal govern.

Recommend that Forest Service mark their boundary where it hits the river.

Recommend at least part of the management staff go on river in a Jet boat (on Grande Ronde) for first hand experience each river experience is unique.



**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS -- SCOPING MEETING  
LA GRANDE -- NOVEMBER 14, 1989**

Quite a few miles of wilderness designation, will there be much to do in planning for that?

Lower Power River segment - min. stream flows due to drought - how will we mitigate that to protect fisheries.

Negative hype towards rivers in Northeast Oregon. What will positive be for long-range plans for these rivers.

economic  
recreation, etc.

Will management advertise these recreational rivers?

What part of Wallowa is being considered?

What consideration for private landowners for leaving timber?

How is designation affect wildlife habitat, especially in relation to private land.

Concern for overlapping design. Landowners can post private land -- recommend the sections be redesignated recreational. Public should have as much freedom as possible for scenic and rec rivers.

Concern: difficulty in obtaining river information from agency(s).

Will water quality be addressed?

Union County Court pursuing study - not definite study will be done. Will this study be used in W&SR study and planning? Need to use this study.

Eagle Creek property mostly private. How much limitation will there be on mining?  
(settled due to these reasons)

Guidelines to speed up permitting process on private land.

More weed problems due to more people -- who will take care of this?

State Water Res. Dept. to finish study in June, 1991. Will this be used?

All rivers riparian zones to be returned to "natural state" after grazing (private land).



How will you be able to reflect any problems that occur in watershed? There are many events associated in any watershed. How will other watersheds impact rivers under designation?

"Study" river -- does that mean it will be eminent it will lead to designation?

Have there been \$ allocated by congress for purchase of easements?

Will designation speed to get permits, etc., to get \$?

Garbage left along rivers who will take care of it?

When are plans due?

Request when culls come in -- should be included in review process. Need to be more responsive.

What are plans on scenic rivers including for weed control. Agriculture is taking blame result of noxious weeds in river corridors.

Dam at Upper Grande Ronde designated. What's happened to proposal?

Any plans for fisheries enhancement in Grande Ronde?

Who will take care of railroad debris dumped in river? Who is doing plan?

Federal employees are influencing recreationist in a political direction.

How state and federal designations take precedence or interact. Are state designations similar to federal designations?

Agency people are coming into process into process experienced, public is not.

Local vote against state scenic designation has been overwhelmed by Portland/State vote. Frustration and concern

Access/Easement? Is it across private land to get to water? Doesn't it cross the water? How does someone find out where an easement exists?

Excessive use (recreation). How will you take care of abuse from too many users? Use over capacity?

How will Peter D'Fazio's new mining act (revoking old) affect existing mining, even in designated corridors?

How can a waterway be designated wild when it already has existing mining claims?



## WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS -- SCOPING MEETING

11/15/89 - BAKER

If the river has in past, had some hard done to it (logging, overgrazing) will this take care of improvements to river? Such as erosion control, improvement of fish habitat.

Primary concern is that of private property owners won't lose their rights - also new owners - such as bridge construction and maintenance of waterway - water rights. North Powder river potential hydroelectric.

Is there any provision to remove river from protection once it's designated if we find later that the designation is disagreeable?

Mineral concerns - existing level of mines - be held - do not stifle new entries (especially on "scenic").

Fish and game - weirs and rocks that they put in actually harmed fisheries.

Heard feds try to acquire water rights - is this true?

Restrictions on rivers where water rights have come under question (re: state process).

Does presence of bill in any particular segment of river imply that river will have a minimum stream flow? (N.Powder and Powder) ALL

How many employees will be hired to take care of rivers and how will they be paid?

What role will fish and game play? Is it changed?

What kind of plan will there be for fire control? "Let it burn" policy - what agencies rules will we be under?

North Powder - very primitive road up center - what is its future?

Ex-drought year - who gets priority for water? (Farmers or does it go down the river?)

How does this affect unpatented mining claims and patented?

Corps of Engineering study - enhancement of stream flows - is there anyway to have upstream enhancement for preserving an even flow throughout Fall, etc.

How soon will there be additions to present rivers?

Will this affect preexisting downstream dams?

How much discretion or variation in plan - why take our input? Aren't you regulated by Act?



If improvements are made (dams) - couldn't we regulate flows in river? Improve water flows as needed?

Who provided primarily input as catalyst for river inclusion?

Who provided local support?

Who provided ultimate support?

How would recreational easement work - would landowner be paid for this?

320 ac/river mile - what do we do if narrow canyon prevents this?

Concern that after this 3 year process is done, someone will come in and say otherwise - so assurances.

Could lakes be enhanced which are out of designated areas?

Does Act take in tributaries? (Powder)

Will public have a say in permanent boundaries?

Will a min. stream flow result from Act?

Will Bill add anymore to FS budget or do you do this with existing budget?

ODFW has too much influence on Forest Plans.

80-some water bills in Congress - how does this fit with Wild and Scenic Rivers?

Will mining operations be "stifled", i.e., economically, because they are in a Wild and Scenic corridor?

Do you have condemnation rights?

Could easement - new roads be added in designated areas?

Compliment team on helping their understanding.

Are you apt to improve Powder River road.



**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS -- SCOPING MEETING  
RICHLAND - 11/21/89**

- Will we fence in the boundaries? Who pays?
- Mining claims - are they protected - what about future claims?
- Scenic and recreational - are existing uses protected?
- What level of logging will be permitted?
- What effect will  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile have on federal land management? For example, land outside (beyond)  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile - impacts on river corridor.
- What will effect be on existing water quality? (monitoring) What? How much?
- Purpose to keep rivers free flowing - why not just "no dam" legislation?
- Why such a wide corridor?
- What definition for river?
- What is need for the study river - Wallowa?
- How will future water rights be affected?
- How will wild and scenic enhance fisheries and wildlife and water quality?
- Mitigation and reclamation of existing mining claims.
- Executive order 12630 regarding taking implication assessment.
- Do all wild and scenic rivers run through government lands? Are there orders for extending?
- Concern that monitoring of water quality and quantity be done.
- What enforcement will be done for water quality?
- Which agency will enforce?
- What will be impact on existing water diversions?
- What will be impacts on maintenance/upgrade of existing impoundments?
- Will there be restrictions for camping, within 300 yards, livestock grazing, etc?



Will this involve any road closures?

What is the cost of this new bureaucracy and how will it be paid for?

Will there be future opportunities to "study" rivers? Another scoping process?

In what situation would fences be required?

Constitution authority to condemn private land?

Livestock trespass into river corridor - consequences?

What provisions are available to address impacts to rivers that originate beyond the corridor?

With increased concern with the river, there is increased concern with timber harvest.

Concern that mining on Eagle Creek does not end up looking like Pine Creek.

Concern that initial presentation is biased against dams and other development.

If landowner wants supplemental water and has down drainage - can he get this back?

Have a public meeting when draft plan is completed.

recognize that water rights in Eagle Valley is very, very important here.

Navigability of these river - owned by the landowners.

Who identifies the outstandingly remarkable values - recreation is not an important value on Eagle Creek.

Wildlife and fish are also very important values, as well as agricultural values.

Uncertain as to whether or not "committee" should be formed for Eagle Creek.

In the future, how often will plans be revised?

Costs by river statewide should be made public.

Take into consideration the fishing in Eagle Creek - trout fishery, not anadromous.

Consider it as a future anadromous fishery (as per consensus group).

Benefit/cost ratios - economic impact on this community should be displayed.



Following notes were recorded during the meeting by Robin Rose. These comments were not recorded on flip charts, therefore person commented was not given the opportunity to correct meaning or content.

Concern in community of water quantity, quality, coming off of NF land and the effect of logging on the water resource.

Pressures, impacts on FS to produce commodities will cause effects outside the corridor to degrade the H2O quality of the river.

Would like the Planning group to recognize that H2O rights and concerns are important in Pine-Eagle Valley.

Exec. Order 12630. Taking Implication Assessment.

Eagle Valley and Richland are dependent on Eagle Creek. Biggest concern here in Eagle Valley is out water.



**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS -- SCOPING MEETING  
UKIAH - 12/5/89**

Is this supposed to be a public thing? Need better notice.

How will  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile be determined?

How will it impact logging?

What is impact on water rights re: or State bill? Is there a difference? (For new water rights.)

In dual designation which one takes precedence?

What is the impact on new mining claims within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile zone?

What is the impacts on the tributaries to these wild and scenic rivers?

Who will manage the trees (dead) along this corridor?

Where river runs across private property - how can you regulate that section of river?

Is there any buffer zone difference between the three designations?

Concern about regarding definition of riparian zone - definition of riparian zones differs with who you talk to , new studies, etc. - it always changes.

Will camping be restricted in designated areas?

Can designations be changed?

What interim guidelines will agencies use prior to development of management plans?

How will property taxes be affected?

What good is this all going to do?

What is difference between a wild designation and a wilderness area?

Will there be places where there is camping and place where there is livestock, where there is mining, etc?

What is the budget for wild and scenic management?

$\frac{1}{4}$  mile corridor - State designation - will they have to go through State to build buildings, fences, etc?



Who are the agencies to contact?

On selection tree harvest, we need sale administrators who know how to do it well.

Is there an interim boundary which will include, say, big game winter range, which goes beyond ¼ mile?

Will these designations make any difference in fire management strategies?

As a recreationist - what does the act mean to the user?

Concern that existing practices will be restricted more in the future.

Decisions on these rivers - will they be done locally or from Washington D.C.?

How will act be carried through personnel changes?

Concern that the more federal land in a corridor, the less likely a citizen's committee will be formed.



**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS -- SCOPING MEETING  
PENDLETON - DECEMBER 6, 1989**

Fallacy - show of hands

100% in support - 0

100% not in support - 7

Use of rivers on private - how much can be used without permission of landowner?

Prior to land being put in W&S rivers - value has dropped - govt won't buy any land - How much can govt buy?

People floating rivers - can they get on your land?

Some rivers would have citizen committee - which rivers will not have? Why? All rivers with private land should have committees.

Pressure on citizens to buy out land. Should stay in private use.

Study in Wild and Scenic Corridor increases value of private land.

Three classifications don't want permit system.

Roads closed unnecessarily along these rivers -- don't want them closed.

Are we going to be allowed more than five minutes to question/answer.

Can the BLM/Forest Service manage the land presently under their jurisdiction:

Why do we feel we can manage private land?

Plan will place unrealistic restrictions on mining, grazing, etc..

What idea of Forest Service putting gate to access private land - and miners can't get a key.

Where are Forest Service/BLM in conjunction?

What will happen to road to North Powder River? (wild status)

Great resource of wild rivers - support this resource.

NFJD - impact from Kimberly down?

Mining law (1972) as amended which takes precedence?



Conserving water for drier times - allowance for impoundments?

NFJD - what happens to Middle Fork and undesignated parts?

Concern that planning team doesn't understand mining laws?

Who is paying for all these open house meetings?

Wants knowledgeable miner on committee -- also hunter, boater, etc.

Concerned about costs of extra roads and liability to landowner for cleaning up litter, etc.

Concerned about preservation of archaeological sites.

Take ¼ mile on each side of river? How can they take away?

How many local people in study and in control of this?

Local trade issue -- Are any special evaluation attached?

Anything changed for better since designated.

Preservation of adequate water control (levels) for fishing?

Concern of CTUIR for strong protection of river for fish and wildlife.

Offer assistance.

Where LG Timber Co. owns land within ¼ mile - can they exchange land for another piece?

Within ¼ mile - can you maintain structures within here?

Objection to land trades.

Concern about existing water rights/future water rights.

Use of water for mining

Will this act prevent harvest of old growth timber.

Concerned about toilet facilities on raftable rivers.

BLM took mine - said it was disbanded - was not true. They said they would protect Granite Creek - now charging small miners to work it.



Concern Act turnout like wilderness -- have to have validity test to keep mine.

Timber Management - 80 years or longer, what constitutes existing use?

Resentful of locks on gates going to Troy. Can't get into fish, berries, picnic. Dope growing.

Government trying to acquire land along rivers through trade/purchase.

Concerned about overemphasis on fish and game -- too much emphasis.

Shouldn't be legislating water in a creek if its already gone down the creek.

Dredge sizes - which one (State and Federal)

Encourage both agencies to provide strong effort to protect cultural sites protection of treaty rights - berry gathering, plant use, etc.

Can you do clean up work on property?

Where do both agencies stand on working with miners?

Stream bank stabilization -- riprap -- protect own property?

What impact on fire fighting status?

Concerning about all input and nothing done. Want impact statement to participants.

FS/F&WL/BLM destroyed nature resources/human nature -- Wants proof that congress gave approval for Forest Service to manage these rivers.

What assurances that legislatures won't change this work today.

Put in application to use road to access mine - equipment comes in to tank trap it when you get approval to use it.

Let us alone

How does Forest Service deal with regulation that they cannot pay for higher value on a property associated with legislation.

Should have rest-room and campsite facilities.

Will it be fenced?



Concerned about what happened with land trades on the Gorge -- it has put people out of work.

Don't think we should have right to take away from the people.

Concerned that "wild" designation will have a "light touch on the land" or "let burn" policy - what about private land adjacent to this which will be at higher risk then.

Concerning with wild spring chinook and steelhead in NFJD - preserve, protect, and enhance.

Restoring coho in all Snake River tributaries.

Protection of cultural resources and uses associated with ceremonial religious actions.

Following notes were recorded during the meeting by Robin Rose. These comments were not recorded on flip charts, therefore person commented was not given the opportunity to correct meaning or content.

Road from Oriental Bar up to end should be open to allow access to mining claims. (Ed Hardt)

Don't make plans concrete. Let's make these plans so we can change them if they don't work. (Billy Roesch)

Miners are having too much influence over management. They should be considered "recreational miners" because they are mining recreationally. (Bob McKenzie)



**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS -- SCOPING MEETING  
IMNAHA - DECEMBER 12, 1989**

Want 50% ownership/condemnation paragraph read.

Wants to see proof how this will benefit private landowner.

What does ¼ mile boundary mean -- why is it necessary?

Contradiction between why meetings held -- why re: private land vs' what slideshow said.

Address noxious weeds along corridors.

Has anyone on Imnaha sold their right and if so, how does it affect us?

Slide show showed undeveloped land.

Who will pick citizen planning team? When? How will process work?

What new rules will this bring it?

Conflicts with constitutional rights.

How will local public input be weighed in relation from outside sources.

What is to prevent laws from being changed in future.

Will we be able to protect streambeds (banks) from erosion?

Ball park figure on costs?

Expound on liability of private landowner

Why is there a study on Wallowa River when there was no study on other rivers?

Discuss implications for new developments.

Condemnation for easements.

Are there going to be different management plans for different designations?

If 200+ private landowners want to say "leave us alone," will that have any effect?

How will this affect tributary streams?



Are there provisions for individual exemptions?

How will overlapping jurisdictions be handled? NRA vs. Wild and Scenic rivers. state excluded Imnaha from State bill. Why?

Could any body of moving water be excluded from W&S legislation?

What is long-term goal for this are; i.e., National Park?

Who will implement management plan?

Can management plan be amended in future?

How will this affect taxes?

How will this affect property values and compensation?

How will this affect property resale?

If someone sells easement to Forest Service, does that make it possible for more condemnation?

Can you water stock? Do you have to fence it?

What is impact on subdivision?

Can property owner take care of erosion?

Could hunting rights be sold?

Who is liable if property is devaluated?

Can you make ranch improvements? Who will stop me?

Can I develop my land?

How will land outside ¼ mile corridor be affected?

The water belongs to the public.

Is river navigable?

Are answers to questions binding?

Can you sell or provide free recreational access to private land?



How does county land use planning fit in?

Is this bill a way for the Federal Government to control Oregon's independent individuals?

NRA Bill -- how does W&S bill change without superseding?

How much authority do "we" have -- can our work be (W&S team) changed?

What happens when there is a new use; i.e., ranch to dude ranch?

Lot of National Forest lands is only accessible through private-ed.

What weight do we give to landowners vs. someone from somewhere else?

What criteria was used in picking management team?

Is there a feeling that there insufficient public access on the Imnaha?

Opposed to condemnation for any reason.

What does it mean to include the public in planning?

Why take the entire Imnaha River?

45% of landowners should have more weight than say, only 10% in private.

If land falls in recreational section, will that change county zoning and raise taxes?

To what extent is public involved in decision making?

What kind of balance of influence will make up local committee?

How long will management plan last? Does it affect the legislation?

We don't want any part of Wild and Scenic River legislation!

Can planning team recommend that private land be removed from legislation?

This river is considered a "national treasure" even though 45% is in private ownership.

We do not need federal government to help us manage this.

Is there going to be Forest Service managers in the local area for W&S Rivers?

Why does Forest Service have to tell the 45% how to manage?



If someone puts land up for sale, is Forest Service ready to buy it?

Will we not spend federal tax dollars for an easement when only a small part will be used for public access?

Are there any existing activities on the river that the team would want to change? NO

Will corridor take in all developed areas?

Can I use pesticides on my garden and orchard?

If you pick the committee, will you "stack the deck?"

When government buys easement, who pays the taxes? The Owner

Build your house now or you may be out of luck later.

With our participation, we may help shape the management plan.

Concern that Forest Service has not controlled noxious weeds and it's creeping down to private lands.

Don't believe that what we say is truthful.

The Forest Service has overwhelming ability to weigh the plan the way we want.

Concerned about the plan not being accepted after inclusion of "local" input.

We have repeatedly had to compromise our rights and values: first NRA, then W&S. What next?

Can legislation be repealed? Could just one river be removed from the system?

We need to organize and vote in people who will carry out our wishes.

Our attitude would be different if our canyon was threatened by development.



**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS -- SCOPING MEETING**  
**Enterprise - December 13, 1989**

Grande Ronde - timber impacts does chart show Union County harvest?

Pertains to #2. Why does federal interpretation vary from State and/or County?

Will there be compensation to the County for roads, trails, and schools.

Taken away revenue

Thinks it should happen.

Are fines/imprisonment going to be used by Forest Service for jetboat use?

Will wild and scenic designation affect feedlots? Will State legislation?

Can private land in wild river section be developed?

Can you choose what color you want to paint your building?

What affect does upriver designation have on downriver uses?

Why and how were these rivers designated?

What affect is there on grazing practices?

Current interpretation give preference to floaters (monopoly) rather than boaters.

Will present landowner's water rights be preserved as private property.

Jack Albright is manager for BLM, Bob Richmond for Forest Service.

Current budget for planning process and for implementation.

Talk about easements.

Are commodity values ever considered as an "ORV"?

Does change of landownership change rights?

How are irrigation developments affected?

How are subdivisions been used? What was situation?

Is there any system for compensation for devaluation?

In what situations would an easement be fenced?



Who is lead agency on Wallowa River?

What is cost of monitoring and enforcement?

How many development requests have we had and how many have we denied?

Are we unhappy with the way land has been managed and why are we doing this?

Are there any Indian treaty rights in wild and scenic?

"Wilderness river run" be considered an existing use on Grande Ronde?

How will committee be selected?

Page 3 letter from Forest Service, BLM Area Manager is responsible for Forest Service interpretation and this letter.

What will be done to "keep river in its bank" - who will do?

The end of this 10-year period - will plan have to change?

Will river plan lead to minimum stream flows?

How much will citizen's committee input be changed or listened to?

Where will meeting of citizen's committee be held? How often?

Will pest control programs be introduced? If not, will there be compensation to private landowners?

Will there be significant changes to management of public lands?

What is the impact on existing businesses when regulations are put in place? If so, who compensates?

What affect will meetings have on plan?

What is role of citizen's committee?

Wants an investigation into BLM's management of this river - has approval from major landowners on Grande Ronde for camping, etc. Wants public to recognize his existing use.

Should have private and commercial use for (jetboat) steelhead fishing - Grande Ronde/Wallowa.



Will historic uses be employed to keep the rivers as they are used today.

What is impact on fire suppression?

What is considered a change in development, i.e., painting a house.

Will designation affect vacant stock allotment?

Is Roy being adversely affected by wild and scenic designation?

If landowner owns bed and bank, who controls the water? Disagreement between Feds, State and County?

Will rivers be signed? Where will funding come from?

Agency viewpoint is prejudiced against jetboats!!!

Will citizen's committee affect mitigation of these problems or will it be law enforcement?

Who determined "ORV's for these rivers?

How is ¼ mile measure?

No one is opposing committee jetboat use, therefore will roy get permit.

We are dictating what landowner can do?

Agencies should not enter into agreements with each other without public input.

If landowners had not improved Wallowa River, it should not be useable by recreationists.

Additional law enforcement may be needed if recreation use increase.

Commodity uses are being taken out of production. Recreation values won't make up for lost commodity values. We should support recreation uses that create jobs and income.

Oregon Rivers council is an organization not supportive of commodity uses.

How do we establish "price" of easements?

LISTEN to the citizens.

Accommodate needs of private citizens in scheduling advisory committee meetings.

In public meetings, show all existing and pending uses.



Contact landowners and visit their places to see how their lands are managed.

You don't understand landowner frustrations.

Bureaucrats don't pay attention to public opinion.

Show what happens to rivers not protected by wild and scenic legislation.

We have seen your management and we don't like it, i.e., burned timber.

Native Americans are interested in wild and scenic legislation as a means to protect and enhance rivers, especially anadromous fisheries.

Indians interested in cultural resources.

Tribes very concerned about bald eagles, both migrants and nesting populations.

Pests from Forest Service lands are damaging private lands. Plan needs an overall pest control program to protect adjacent private landowners.

Will there be a citizen grievance committee for adjudicating disputes between citizens and the government?

BLM river rangers lobbied for wild and scenic legislation while on job.

Will wildlife take precedence over livestock in wild and scenic river corridors?



## **Appendix G - Oregon State Scenic Waterway Rules of Land Management**

736-40-035 These rules and regulations governing the use of related adjacent lands and improvements made on or to these lands apply to all designated scenic waterways. Land management on scenic waterways includes, but is not limited to the following examples:

(1) **Timber Harvest:** The forest cover on related adjacent land is a part of the scenic beauty of the scenic waterway and notification of planned timber harvest operations must be given to the Commission one year prior to commencement. The notification must include a plan specifying timber to be cut, road locations, logging methods, slash cleanup, soil stabilization, revegetation measures and any other details as the commission may require.

(2) **Tree Cutting:** No person shall cut any living tree within a scenic waterway without prior written notice except as provided in these rules.

(3) **Grazing and Farming:** Existing use in the form of grazing or farming of the related adjacent land is a part of the scenic beauty of the waterway. Notification is not required for:

- (a) Construction of fences;
- (b) Maintenance of farm buildings, fences or appurtenances necessary to existing use;
- (c) Laying of irrigation lines;

(d) Pumphouse construction, if not in violation of OAR 736-40-030(5);

(f) Crop rotation;

(g) Variations in grazing land management;

(h) Placing of grazing land under cultivation, except within classified natural river areas named in OAR 736-40-045 through 736-40-075;

(i) Construction of silos and grain storage facilities, and other structures or buildings as are needed in connection with the existing use of the related adjacent land, if not in violation of OAR 736-40-030(5), except within classified natural river areas named in OAR 736-40-045 through 736-40-075;

(j) Cutting of danger trees. Notification is required for construction of new roads or improvement of existing roads.

(4) **Suburban Housing:** Notification is not required for:

- (a) Maintenance of existing homes in a manner compatible with these rules and regulations;
- (b) Modifications to existing single family dwellings, if not in violation of OAR 736-40-030(5);
- (c) Construction of garages necessary to the use of existing homes, if not in violation of OAR 736-40-030(5);



(d) Changes in or additions to homesite landscaping which do not impair vegetation screening structures from view from the river;

(e) Construction of protective fences necessary to use of the home;

(f) Cutting of firewood for occupant's dwelling;

(g) Cutting of danger trees. Notification is required for construction of new roads or improvement of existing roads.

**(5) Prospecting, Mining, Dredging, and Quarrying;**

(a) All prospecting, mining, dredging, and quarrying operations, including removal or movement of gravel, rocks and sand within related adjacent lands, require notification to the Commission as prescribed herein;

(b) Such notification shall include plans to insure that debris, silt, chemicals or other materials, shall not be discharged into or allowed to reach the waters within a scenic waterway and that the natural beauty of the scenic waterway shall not be impaired substantially.

**(6) Transportation Facilities and Utilities:**

(a) No roads, railroads or other facilities for transportation or utilities shall be constructed or improved within a scenic waterway without notification to

the Commission as prescribed by the Act and herein;

(b) The Commission, whenever practicable, will require the sharing of land and airspace by such facilities and utilities. All permissible transportation facilities and utilities shall be so located as to minimize impairment of the natural beauty of the scenic waterway. For example, it will be desirable to place electrical and telephone lines underground wherever reasonably practicable.

**(7) Structures, Buildings, and Other Improvements:** Except as provided in OAR 736-40-030(5), sections (3) and (4) of this rule and OAR 736-40-045 through 736-40-075, no structures, buildings, or other improvements shall be made, erected or placed on related adjacent lands without notification to the Commission as prescribed by the Act and herein. Permitted new structures, buildings, or other improvements on related adjacent lands which can be seen from the waters within a scenic waterway shall:

(a) Be of such design and be constructed of such materials as to be unobtrusive and compatible with the scenic qualities of the area. For example, the following shall apply;

(A) All structures shall be finished in muted tones appropriate to their natural surroundings;

(B) No large areas, including roofs, shall be finished with white or bright colors or reflective materials;



(C) Except for large farm buildings such as barns, metal siding or roofing shall not be used;

(D) No structures shall exceed 30 feet in height from natural grade on a side facing the river;

(E) All structures shall be so designed and constructed that little or no soil is left exposed when construction is completed.

(b) Be located in such a way that topography and natural vegetation make them as inconspicuous as reasonably practicable, and in no case obtruding on the view from the river. The Commission may require that additional vegetative screening be established and maintained. In such event, it shall be evergreen, wherever practicable, and compatible with natural growth in the area.

(8) Mobile homes, modular residential structures, house trailers, campers and similar structures, and vehicles. Mobile homes, modular residential structures, house trailers, campers, motor homes and the like shall not be established as dwellings, either permanent, (or) seasonal or temporary, within related adjacent lands unless they are entirely concealed from view from the waters within a scenic waterway by topography, except, that those mobile homes, modular residential structures and house trailers that are at least 20 feet wide, with exterior dimensions, less hitch, of 800 square feet, may be permitted under these rules subject to the same requirements and standards set forth in the previous section relating to criteria for

review for structures and improvements that are visible from the waters within a scenic waterway. Additionally, except when a mobile home, modular residential structure, house trailer or the like is not set on a ground-level foundation, full skirting shall be installed which in design, color and texture appears to be an integral part of the exterior of the structure.

(a) For purposes of these rules, a structure is a mobile home, modular residential structure, house trailer, camper or motor home if it is used, designed or intended to house persons, and is transported to the site in a state of substantial prefabrication. Once a structure fulfills this test, it shall remain subject to the rule regardless of whether the wheels or other temporary assembly have been removed or detached, and regardless of whether the structure is subsequently relocated;

(b) Within public recreation sites and transient public trailer parks where travel trailers, campers, motor homes and similar vehicles are permitted by the public agency, firm or individual maintaining the facility, their transient, short-term use by travelers is allowed, but they shall not be left on the site during their user's absence of more than three (3) day's duration.

(9) Maintenance of Structures and Improvements; Owners and users of existing structures and other improvements shall maintain them and their surroundings in a manner and



condition in harmony with the environment, compatible with the objectives set forth in these rules and regulations for the classified river area in which they be, and without impairing substantially the natural beauty of the scenic waterway. The existing color of such structures may be maintained.

(10) Replacement of Existing Structures and Improvements: Replacement of existing structures and improvements, including those lost by fire, flood or other casualty, will be permitted, provided the new structure or improvement is in compliance with provisions of the Act and these rules and regulations. Notification procedures set forth in OAR 736-40-040 and Commission approval are required.

(11) Advertising: No signs or other forms of outdoor advertising that are visible from waters within a scenic waterway shall be constructed or maintained. Property protection signs (No Hunting, No Trespassing, et cetera) are exempted.

(12) Erosion Protection: The Commission recognizes that erosion protection work and maintenance may be necessary on riverbanks and related adjacent lands along the scenic waterways. Notification, which shall include plans to protect the natural beauty of the scenic waterway, and Commission approval are required.

(13) Submerged and Submersible Lands:

(a) No dam or reservoir or other water impoundment facility shall be constructed or placer mining permitted on waters within scenic waterways. No water diversion facility shall be constructed or used except by right previously

established or as permitted by the State Engineer;

(b) No bank protection works or dredging facility shall be constructed or used on such waters, except as permitted by the Director of the Division of State Lands and approved by the State Land Board.

(14) Emergencies:

(a) The owner or his authorized agent may act in emergencies without prior notice when necessary in the interest of public safety, or safety of his own property, except that notice of any action taken shall be filed with the Commission not later than seven days following the commencement of the emergency procedures;

(b) The owner or his authorized agent must show that the emergency situation required immediate action to prevent immediate danger or damage. Such emergency procedures shall not be extended beyond the minimum necessary to accomplish the needed protection safely and shall be conducted throughout in such manner as to minimize impairment of the natural beauty of the scenic waterway. For example, car bodies and similar scrap or trash shall not be used as riprap.

(15) Solid Waste, Pollution and Sanitation: Owners, occupants and users of related adjacent land shall comply with the rules and regulations of the Department of Environmental Quality



relating to solid waste control, water, air and noise pollution control and sewage disposal.



## Appendix H - Memorandum of Understanding

This agreement is between the United States, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) acting by and through the Oregon State Director; the USDA Forest Service (FS), acting by and through the Regional Forester, Region 6; and the State of Oregon, by and through the Parks and Recreation Department (Parks).

### WITNESSETH:

**WHEREAS**, on various rivers throughout Oregon, the State of Oregon, the BLM and the FS administer, manage or regulate the use of lands within certain river corridors and have various programs and responsibilities in regard to these programs and lands under their respective jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Oregon, under the state Scenic Waterways Act and the BLM and FS under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act are charged with parallel duties of identification, planning, and administration of rivers with special qualities as set out in those acts; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Oregon, BLM, and FS have differing authorities, jurisdictions, and administrative capabilities as to the lands and waters within the river corridors; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Oregon and the United States have common objectives as to the planning and management of these lands and water resources making it desirable for the State of Oregon and the United States to cooperate in the

planning and management of these resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Regional Forester, FS, has the authority to enter into this agreement by virtue of the authority granted to the Secretary of Agriculture by Sec. 11, P.L. 90-542 as amended thereto; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Director, BLM has the authority to enter into this agreement by virtue of the authority granted to the Secretary of the Interior by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (42 U.S.C. 1737) and for components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems by virtue of P.L. 90-542 as amended; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Oregon, by and through Parks enters into this agreement by virtue of the authority granted by ORS 390.140(2)(b) and

**NOW THEREFORE**, it is agreed between the parties as follows;

A. When the State of Oregon, the BLM, or the FS determine that a river corridor is under formal consideration for designation under either the state or federal rivers programs, they will notify the other parties and afford them an appropriate opportunity for participation in consideration of the river corridor for designation.

B. The FS and the BLM agree to consult and cooperate with Parks when conducting resource management planning within designated wild and scenic river corridor, designated state scenic waterways, rivers considered candidates for state or federal designation or other rivers mutually agreed upon and identified.



C. When a river which is designated by the State of Oregon as a scenic waterway includes federal lands within its boundaries, Parks will consult and cooperate with the BLM and/or FS as appropriate during the establishment of management guidelines and administrative rules.

D. Work projects or activities which involve transfer of money, services or property will require execution of a separate agreement. Alternative agreements include Challenge Cost-Share Agreements, Participating Agreements, Procurement Contracts and local Memorandum of Understanding. Each project will be signed and documented by the responsible organizational line officer using the appropriate agreement. These agreements will address such matters as planning for recreational developments, acceptable types and levels of use, resource management program constraints and guidelines, and administrative arrangements including the transfer of funds and the sharing of personnel to effectively plan for and manage river corridors. If either federal agency does not manage lands in a particular river corridor, that agency need not be a party to the supplemental agreement for the river.

E. It is recognized that it is in the best interest of the state and federal agencies to avoid duplicative planning processes on designated rivers. Therefore, to the greatest extent possible, management planning on designated rivers shall be consolidated into one process - state and federal - that satisfies the needs of both entities.

In some cases, it may be necessary to determine a lead or coordinating agency

to facilitate the process. The responsibilities of the various involved parties shall be enumerated in a memorandum of understanding as described in (D) above.

F. Parks will, to the extent possible, communicate with affected state agencies regarding FS or BLM river corridor planning and management activities subject to this agreement.

G. BLM and FS fully recognize the need to notify and consult with Parks at the earliest possible opportunity regarding land use activities on federal lands that may impact the natural resource values of the rivers shown in Attachment A of this agreement. Parks review shall be to determine an activity or project's compatibility with the maintenance of the river's natural beauty according to the standards in the scenic waterway management rules (OAR Chapter 736 Division 40).

H. It is recognized that the parties to this Agreement and their agencies and representatives have responsibilities under statute or otherwise which cannot be waived or abrogated. This agreement does not affect such non-discretionary mandates.

I. Nothing in this Agreement shall commit the parties or their agencies or representatives to the expenditure of funds not authorized by law.

J. Any party may withdraw from this Agreement upon written notice to the other parties. The withdrawal of one or more parties shall not affect the validity of this Agreement as to the remaining parties.



K. Amendments to this Agreement may be proposed by any party and shall become effective on approval by all parties.

L. No member or delegate to Congress or resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this Agreement, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this agreement if made with a corporation for its general benefit.

M. Attachment A is a list of existing state scenic waterways.

N. Attachment B is a list of existing Federally - designated rivers.

The Parks and Recreation Commission, by a duly-adopted delegation order number 1, authorized the State Parks Director to execute this agreement on behalf of the Commission. Approval for this delegation order was given at its January 26, 1990, meeting.

State of Oregon, by and through  
its State Parks and Recreation  
Department

Director

United States of America, by and  
through its USDA Forest Service,  
Region 6

John F. Butruille - Regional Forester

United States of America, by and  
through its USDI Bureau of Land  
Management, Oregon State Office

State Director



## **Appendix I - Memorandum of Understanding**

### **Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department State Agency Coordination Program**

#### **RIVERS PROGRAM**

##### **Scenic Waterways Program**

The two actions that affect land use in this program are: 1. Adoption or amendment of a State Scenic Waterway Management Plan; and 2. Approval of development proposals within the boundaries of a State Scenic Waterway.

**Action 1: Management Plan Adoption or Amendment by the Commission in Concurrence with the Water Resources Department Commission**

**Authorities:** ORS 390.845 provides that with few exceptions (ORS 390.835) scenic waterways shall be administered by the department, each in such a manner as to protect and enhance the values which caused such scenic waterway to be included in the system. In such administration primary emphasis shall be given to protecting the esthetic, scenic, fish and wildlife, scientific and recreation features, based on the special attributes of each area. Management plans for each scenic waterway designation are developed to assist in that administration. ORS 390..934 provides the guidelines for management and development of the Deschutes River Scenic Waterway Recreation Area.

**Analysis:** General Rules of Land Management for all Scenic Waterways

are described in OAR 736-40-035. In addition to these rules and regulations governing the use of related adjacent lands and improvements made on or to the adjacent lands, classifications by each river and segment and general administrative criteria are developed for each river and segment. The general rules and the adopted criteria for the management of the waterway are used in the review and recommendation of action for the notification to the Department of development proposals and other activities within the Scenic Waterway boundary.

Designated State Scenic Waterways are a State Goal 5 resource. Adoption or amendment of a scenic waterway management plan may reasonably be expected to have a significant effect on this resource identified in the statewide planning goals and/or present or future land uses identified in acknowledged comprehensive plans.

As of September 27, 1989, the State Parks and Recreation Department has the Primary management responsibility for the State of Oregon to manage the State Deschutes River Scenic Waterway Recreation Area. In 1989, the Department was to work with the Deschutes River Management Committee (DRMC), in cooperation with all managing agencies, to develop a comprehensive plan. In November, 1989, the Deschutes River (as part of the Federal Omnibus Wild & Scenic Rivers Bill) was designated a Wild & Scenic River also. This changed the format only by the additional overlay of the federal planning process. The Deschutes River Management should be incorporated into the appropriate jurisdictions plan to assist them with their Goal 5 implementation strategies for the



protection of State Scenic Waterways in their jurisdiction.

### **Compatibility**

**Process:** The Department, in coordination with other state agencies and the federal government, develop management plans for each scenic waterway to meet the mandate of the designation. Landowners, recreational users, local governments and other interested citizens also are included in the planning process.

City and county officials are an integral part of the coordination with state and federal agencies in the development of the river management plan. During periodic review or another plan amendment process, this information is provided to the local government for inclusion into the appropriate comprehensive land use planning and zoning strategies of the jurisdiction's comprehensive plan.

In addition to the opportunity for coordination during the management plan process, the Department will rely on local government response to notification of rule making for adoption of the master plan. If no response is received the department will presume compatibility. Each State Scenic Waterway file includes a mailing list of all local jurisdictions that are impacted by the designation. This action will use the Type 3 compatibility procedure as outlined in OAR 736-70-040.

**Action 2:** Approval of a proposed development or action within the State Scenic Waterway boundaries.

**Authorities:** ORS 390.845, and OAR 736-40-030 - 736-40-095 describe the

Department's responsibilities and rules of land management within the Scenic Waterways through the notification process.

**Analysis:** The Department operates the program through a notification and review process. The program is designed to maintain the status quo, not to turn back time. Most existing land uses, constructed developments and water rights within the designated waterways are recognized and permitted. The Oregon Scenic Waterways Act does not allow public use of private property without the landowner's consent.

Construction of dams, development of impoundments and placer mining are the only activities prohibited within the boundary of a scenic waterway. Public and private property owners with proposals to build roads, houses, develop mines, cut timber or make other proposed changes within one-quarter mile of each side of a designated river must notify the Department in advance. Within one year of notification, the Department, relying on rules established for each designated waterway, must decide if a proposed change will affect the scenic beauty of the river. If a proposal is denied by the Department, a landowner may modify a proposal and again seek approval. The Scenic Waterways Act allows the Park and Recreation Commission to purchase land if impairment of a river's scenic qualities cannot be prevented by any other means.

Management responsibilities are also assigned under the Act to other state agencies. These particular regulatory functions are established by the responsible agency's administrative rules. Filling in rivers, removing soil and gravel



from rivers, or changing riverbanks in any way, regardless of the amount of soil and rock involved, requires special approval of the Division of State Lands. The Water Resources Department is required to insure that new instream water rights issued within a scenic waterway will be used only for fish, wildlife and recreation. Other uses may be permitted if flow is found sufficient to satisfy the fish, wildlife and recreation needs along with existing uses.

The Act is administered by the Park and Recreation Commission in such a manner as to protect and enhance the values which caused a scenic waterway to be included in the system. This action could be reasonably expected to have an impact on this Statewide Goal 5 resource, State Scenic Waterways.

#### **Compatibility**

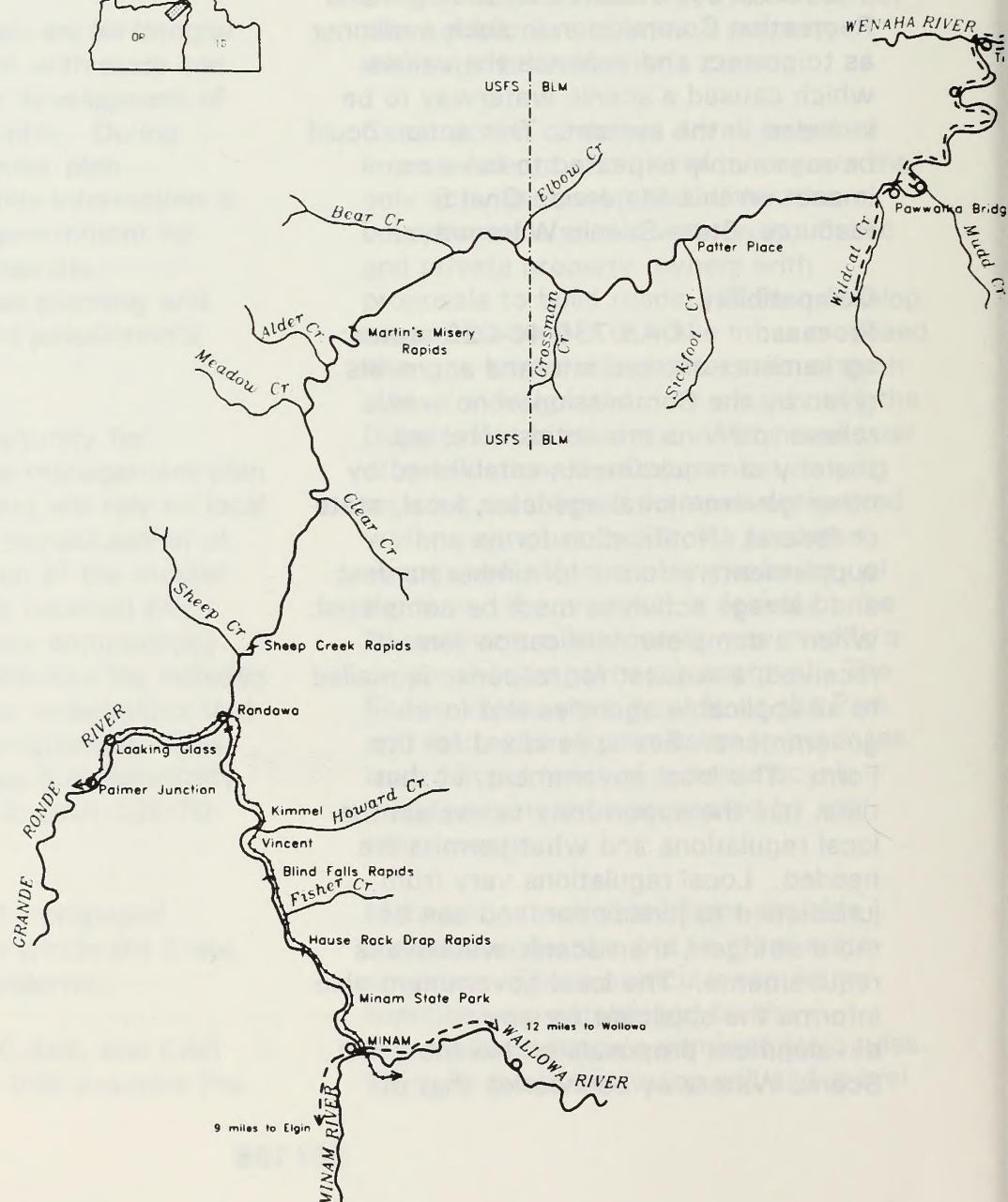
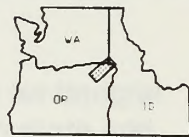
**Process:** OAR 736-40-020 states: agreements entered into and approvals given by the Commission in no way relieve persons or entities affected thereby of requirements established by other governmental agencies, local, state or federal. Notification forms and supplementary forms for timber harvest and salvage activities must be completed. When a complete notification form is received, a request for response is mailed to all applicable agencies and local governments. See appendix J for the Form. The local government, at that time, has the opportunity to explain the local regulations and what permits are needed. Local regulations vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and can be more stringent than scenic waterways requirements. The local government also informs the applicant for any development proposals within the State Scenic Waterway boundaries that the

applicant must meet State Parks Scenic Waterway notification requirements. Obtaining a local land use or building permit is not the same as getting scenic waterway approval for improvements or changes. This action uses the Type 3 compatibility procedure as outlined on OAR 736-70-040.

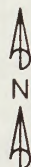
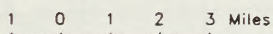
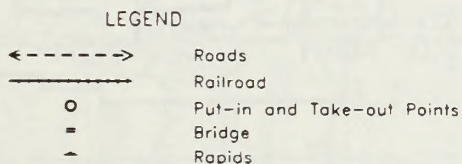
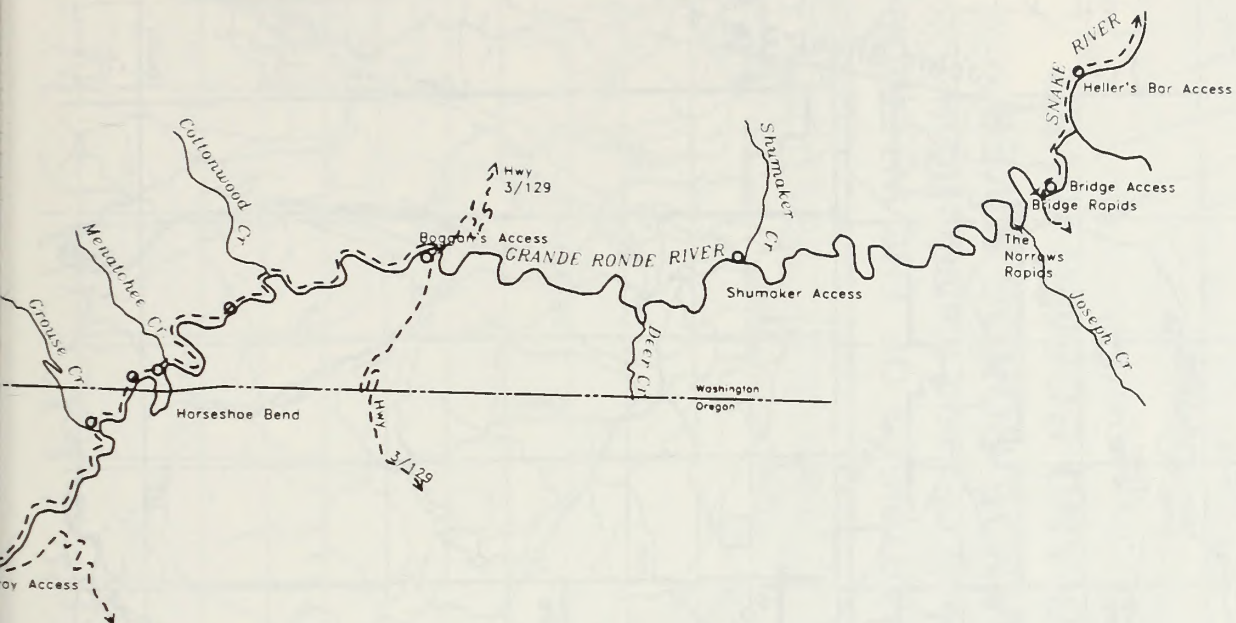
Additional review procedures are currently being developed and will be adopted by the Commission.



# WALLOWA / GRANDE RONDE RIVERS





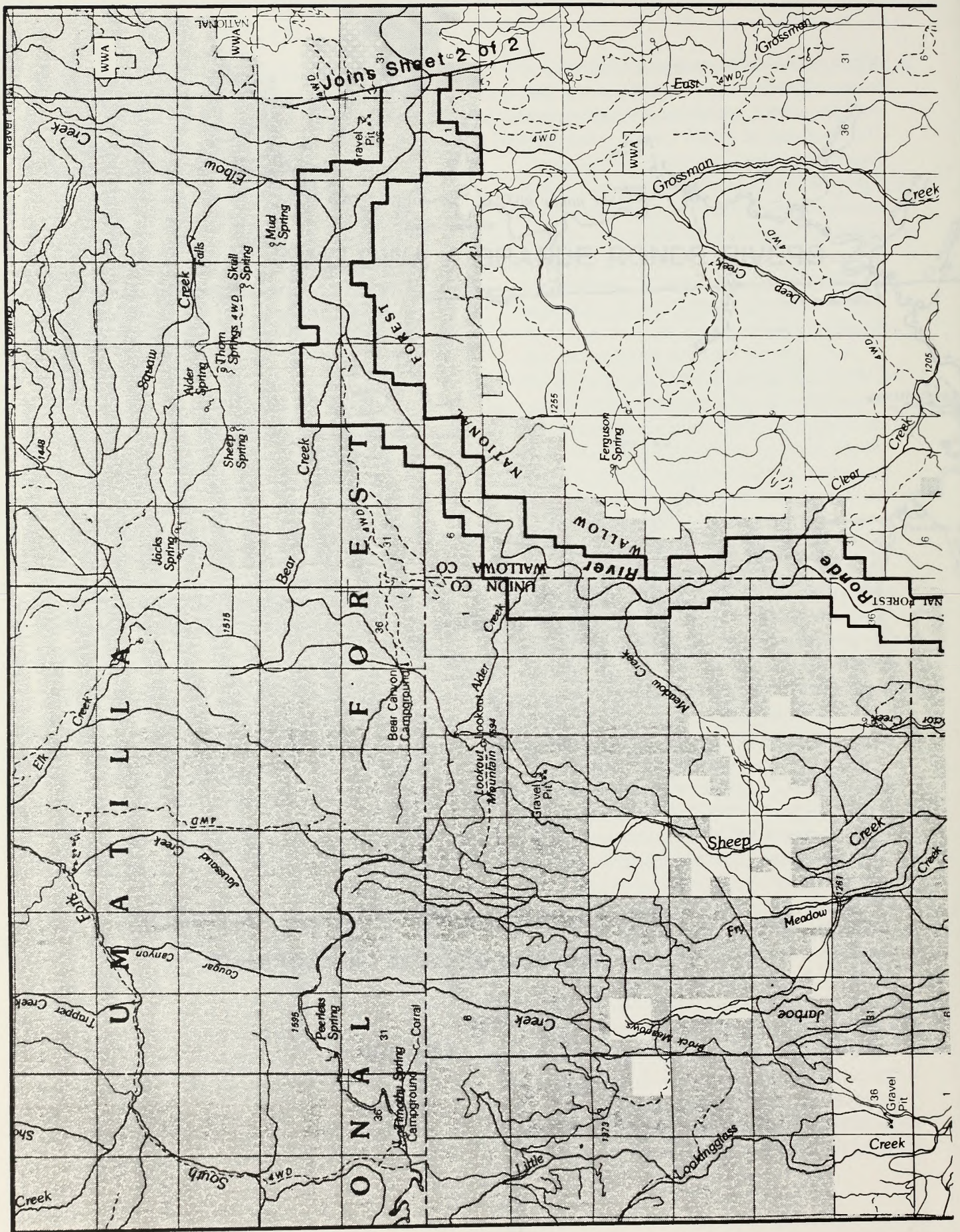


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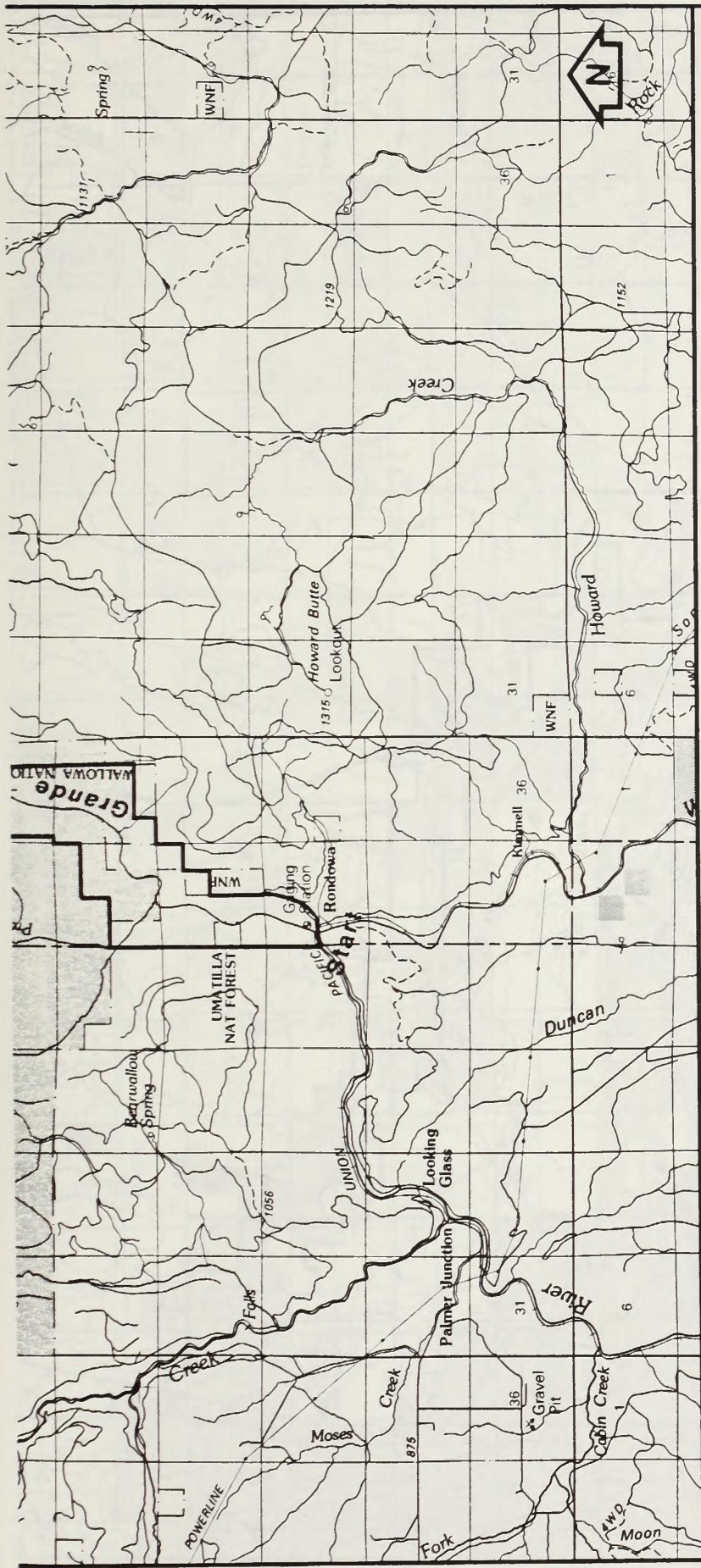
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WILD AND SCENIC RIVER







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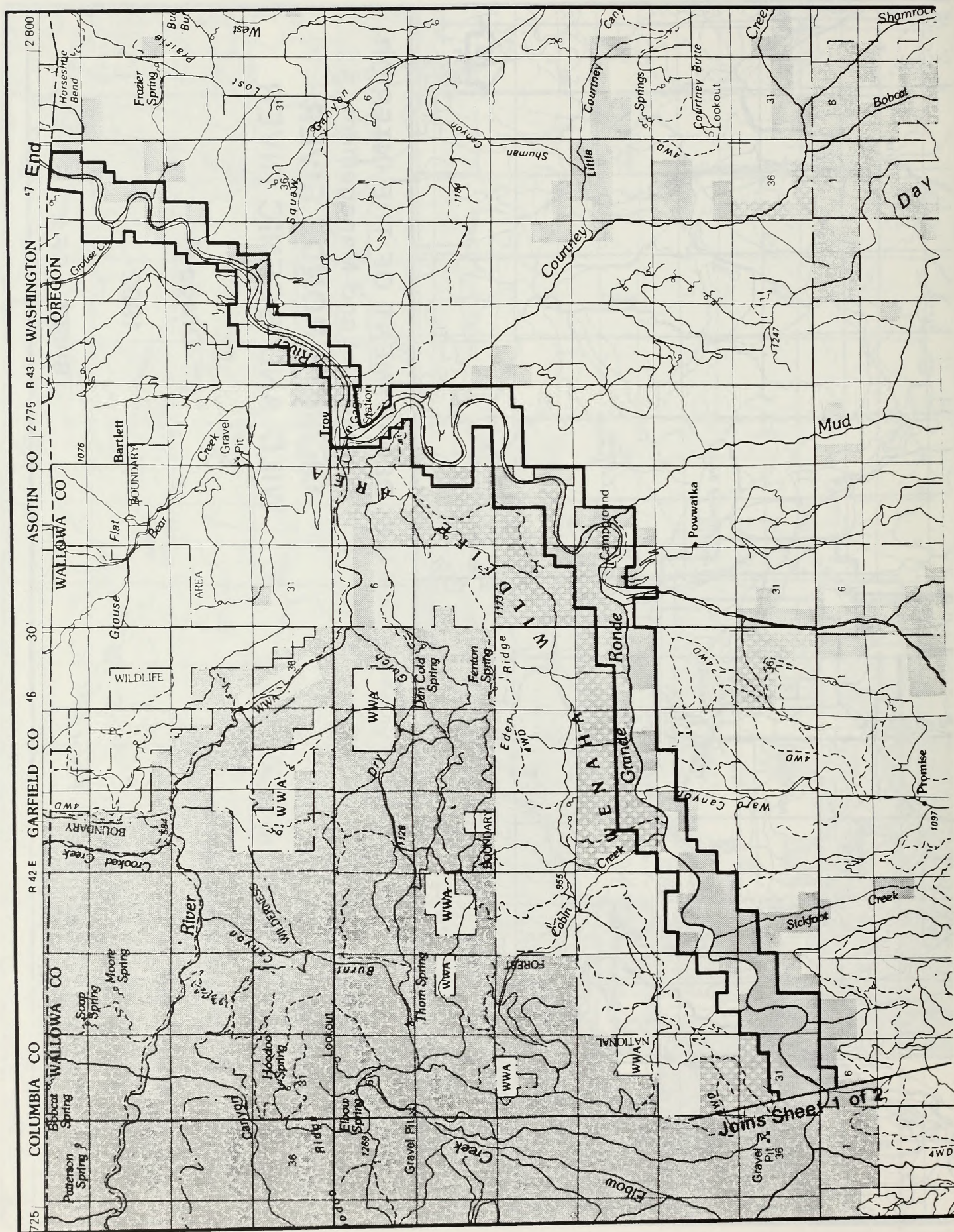
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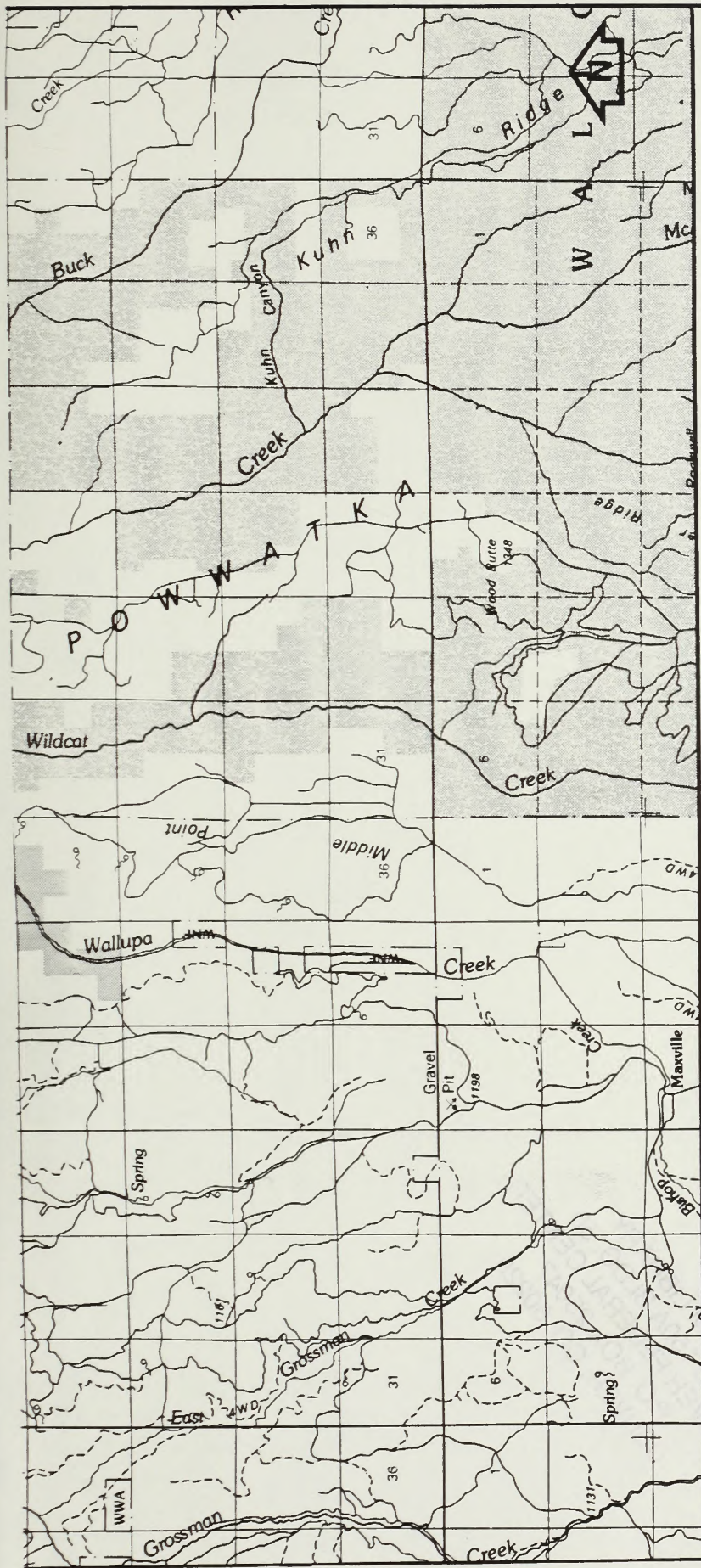
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-  U.S. Forest Service Lands
-  State Land
-  Private Land
-  Proposed Wild and Scenic River
-  Administrative Boundary









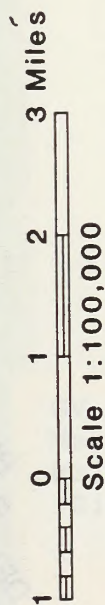
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**GRANDE RONDE RIVER**  
WILD AND SCENIC RIVER





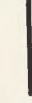
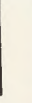
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SHEET 2 OF 2



**LEGEND**

-  Public Lands (Admin. by BLM)
-  U.S. Forest Service Lands
-  State Land
-  Private Land
-  Proposed Wild and Scenic River
-  Administrative Boundary



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